

THE TIMES Tomorrow

Bleak House
Spectrum charts the origins of the great Housing Benefit disaster

Pillars of Wisdom?
"The Establishment is ossified." A former Thatcher adviser says the Prime Minister has refused to reform Whitehall

Decline and Fall
Edward Mortimer on the decline of the French Communist Party under Georges Marchais (below)



OED
Philip Howard pays homage to the "most exciting" book title of the century

Glory Game
The draw for the semi-finals of the Milk Cup

Doctors' warning on NHS cuts

Doctors would defy instructions from laymen appointed as National Health Service general managers if patient care was threatened, the British Medical Association told MPs in giving evidence on the Griffiths report on streamlining the service.

Earnings beat pay deals

Earnings in manufacturing industry are rising nearly twice as fast as basic pay deals which average 5 per cent. This is largely because increased output has resulted in more overtime, bonus and productivity-related payments.

Borrowing up

The public sector borrowed £10.1 billion in the first nine months of the current financial year - slightly more than the Government's £10 billion target for the full year.

Jet sabotaged

Pakistan said sabotage was the cause of a mid-air explosion on an Air France jumbo jet with 254 people on board. Four passengers were arrested.

TSB raises rate

The Trustee Savings Bank group has raised its mortgage rate from 11 per cent to 11.5 per cent on loans up to £30,000.

Divorce vote

Church of England clergy are voting heavily against the proposals to remarry divorcees in church.

Clubs fined

Record fines of £1,000 each have been imposed on Oldham and Leigh rugby league clubs, after fighting among players caused the abandonment of their match.

THE TIMES

We apologize for shortcomings in our financial, advertising and announcements services today. These are due to a dispute involving clerical members of the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades '82.

Leader page, 11

Letters: On rape-capping, from Mr A. J. Wigan, and others; abortion, from Lord Robertson of Oakridge; historical records, from Mr A. Sandison; leading articles: Mr Heath; Gower report; Abortion; Features, pages 8, 10; The barriers to moving Temple Bar, when top-selling does not mean best-read; David Attenborough's new TV nature series; Ronald Butt on Mrs Thatcher's pragmatism; The Times profile: Jean-Luc Godard.

Books, page 9
Fiona MacCarthy discusses the biography of Arthur Ransome; biography of the week, including: Fay Weldon's new novel, reviewed by Gay Firth and John Nicholson; Peter Ackroyd on Updike; Kay Dick on M. F. K. Fisher; children's books; Obituaries, page 12
Professor Sir Ronald Tumber, Miss Dorothy Lane

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Shultz confronts Gromyko in five-hour meeting

By Our Foreign Staff

Heated talks lasting more than five hours ran into the night at the Soviet Embassy in Stockholm yesterday as Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, met Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, for the first time in four months.

The meeting was more than two hours longer than originally planned and, according to Tass in Moscow, Mr Gromyko "resolutely denounced" Washington's world-wide military policies in "a totally frank and principled manner" - phrasing which indicates friction and possibly outright argument between the two men.

Mr Shultz made no statement as he left the embassy shortly after 8pm.

In a speech earlier in the day to the European Disarmament Conference meeting in Stockholm, the Soviet Minister accused the Reagan Administration of "thinking in terms of war and acting accordingly".

He pinned the blame for the breakdown in US-Soviet talks on limiting nuclear missiles in Europe on the United States, said Moscow would never return to the Geneva talks unless NATO abandoned its deployment of US missiles.

Moscow walked out of the talks last November after US cruise and Pershing-2 missiles, the first of 572 to be based in Europe under a five-year plan, arrived in West Germany, Britain and Italy.

"We stand for serious negotiations and not for negotiations used as a screen for covering up militaristic plans," Mr Gromyko said.

myko said. "Having started installation of its missiles, Washington has rendered negotiations pointless."

He said "militarism, enmity and war hysteria" were being exported to Western Europe along with the US missiles.

Mr Gromyko also accused the United States, which has troops in a four-nation peace-keeping force in Lebanon, of "sowing death and destruction there".

Gromyko repeated Soviet proposals for an agreement between nuclear powers not to use atomic weapons first and

Delegates shocked 6
Photograph 6
Doomsday film 6
British fury 6

for a non-aggression pact. The Nato alliance, which says it will not use nuclear or conventional weapons unless it is attacked first, has already dismissed these proposals. It wants the Stockholm conference to focus on detailed measures to tighten and extend existing rules covering notification and observation of military exercises and manoeuvres.

Gromyko struck a more positive note on these issues, saying Moscow was ready to work out extra "confidence-building measures" covering prior notification of major manoeuvres and agreement to limit their scale.

According to the Tass report issued from Moscow later in the day, Mr Gromyko pressed these

themes in his meeting with Mr Shultz. There was no sign in the report that there had been any conciliatory words between the two men.

The Soviet Foreign Minister also told Mr Shultz the missile talks could only be resumed if the US "showed readiness to return to the situation that had existed prior to the commenced deployment of American missiles in Europe", Tass said.

Andrei Gromyko resolutely denounced Washington's course towards heightening tension in various parts of the world... towards escalating gross, including military, interference in the affairs of sovereign states," Tass said.

Mr Gromyko had rejected comments from Mr Shultz that the US was seeking greater international stability. "It was said to him that the practical actions of the American administration do not tally with this," Tass said.

Soon after the talks ended, another Tass report from Moscow said that Soviet troops have begun training on new nuclear missiles placed in Czechoslovakia as part of Moscow's response to US deployment of cruise and Pershing rockets.

On Tuesday, it was revealed that Soviet soldiers were manning new missile bases in east Germany.

Yesterday's report from Czechoslovakia, previewing an article due to appear today in the Soviet Army newspaper *Red Star*, training had started the moment the rocket troops arrived in the country.



Prince Moulay Rachid, son of King Hassan, welcomes PLO leader Yassir Arafat, who was in Morocco for the Islamic summit. Split over Egypt, Page 6

All-out Ford strike threatened over closure of foundry

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

Ford union leaders yesterday threatened an all-out strike from February 13 unless the company withdraws its plan to close the Thames foundry at Dagenham next year with the loss of 2,000 jobs.

Amid mounting concern among the unions about the company's plans, Mr Ronald Todd, national organizer of the Transport and General Workers' Union, is also to seek a commitment from Ford on its commitment to investing in Britain.

The magazine, *The Engineer*, today claims to confirm their worst fears with an article which says the company has decided to invest more than £100m on a new Sierra engine in West Germany, which would lead to 1,700 job losses in the Dagenham engine shop.

The company last night refused to comment on the story, but denied that there was any plan to reduce the Essex complex to a mere assembly plant. Ford has spent more than £300m on the plant in recent years.

Yesterday's decision to strike was given "overwhelming" backing in a vote by the foundry workers, and it was thought that the recommendation would

now be put to mass meetings at the 24 plants throughout the country.

Management is privately taking some comfort from the fact that the last round of mass meetings in December over the 7.5 per cent pay offer went against the union recommendation to strike.

Mr Todd said that he wanted to discuss the "decline of manufacturing operations in Great Britain" with the company. He was satisfied that the call for industrial action would win the support of the 60,000-strong workforce.

The company announced on Monday that the foundry was to close next April but that there would be offers of early retirement and voluntary redundancy. Ford said that it was hoping to avoid compulsory severance.

The plant had lost £75m over the last three years and there was no prospect of viability despite a £6m investment programme over the last 18 months, Ford said. The foundry was suffering from low productivity, adverse currency movements, over-capacity in the industry and low demand.

More cuts feared, page 2

1,180 high technology jobs cut

By Our Labour Reporter

Two high technology companies, British Aerospace and Ferranti, yesterday announced 1,180 redundancies at plants in the north west of England.

A total of 450 Aerospace jobs will go at Chadderton, near Oldham, and Woodford, near Stockport. Another 400 will go at Broughton, Chester.

The Ferranti job losses will be at Ferranti Container Handling and Ferranti Fabrications at Chadderton. Mr Christopher Drake, national aerospace organizer for Taw's engineering staff union, forecast that there would be coordinated opposition from the unions to the cuts.

A spokesman for British Aerospace said the company hoped the redundancies could be brought about voluntarily. He added that the job losses were caused by a reduced workload.

The latest cutbacks follow last year's 2,000 job losses, when it was decided to close the factory at Hurn, Bournemouth, and other plants.

Sir Austin Pearce, BAE chairman, has warned of significant redundancies if the Government did not support programmes such as SeaWolf, the A320 Airbus and the European fighter.

Thatcher tackles 'immune targets'

By Julian Haviland Political Editor

The Prime Minister yesterday criticized local government at a vested interest, and lumped it with the trade unions, the nationalized industries and the monopolies in the professions. They had been immune for years, she said, and she would like the governments led by her to be remembered a hundred years hence for having tackled them.

Mr Margaret Thatcher's few short blunt words stood out in a speech to political reporters which dealt more delicately and at greater length with the question of press responsibility.

Mr Edward Heath, the former Conservative Prime Minister, said yesterday after the rate capping revolt that he had no intention of being a lackey.

Back page

They seemed to be directed at rebels and potential rebels among Conservative MPs, who on the second reading of the Rates Bill on Tuesday reduced the Government's paper majority by about a third, and who threaten to increase their pressure as the Bill proceeds.

She did not vanish her language with the usual tribute to the value of local government as an institution, or confine her criticism, as hitherto, to the few high-spending councils.

The message, which was heard by Mr Edward Heath and Mr Francis Pym among the rebels, was that the Prime Minister means to have the Bill.

Mrs Thatcher was speaking in London at a luncheon to mark the centenary of the parliamentary lobby journalists, the group of reporters allowed to work in the lobby of the House of Commons.

She asked how press freedom could be reconciled with responsibility to the nation of which all were part.

Mrs Thatcher suggested questions which deserved some thought.

Which weighed heavier in the reporting of news, accuracy or presentation, the need to inform or to entertain.

Were facts as sacred as comment was free, should journalists make the news.

Were the media fair as well as free. In plain terms, what did it take to secure publication of a correction.

Was there a clear understanding of the limits to incursions into privacy, whether of Crown or commoner, or were the limits set solely by what was perceived to be commercial interest.

Did the media present a balanced picture of life in Britain. If it showed all that was best in our society while the dictators showed all that looked best in theirs, were we promoting or undermining freedom.

University head shot dead in Beirut

From Our Correspondent, Beirut

The president of the American University of Beirut was shot dead in the corridor outside his office yesterday, and a shadowy pro-Iranian group claimed responsibility for his murder and for the kidnapping on Tuesday of a Saudi Arabian diplomat.

Mr Malcolm Kerr, aged 52, was returning to his office in College Hall from a meeting with his deans when he was shot in the head at close range. He was pronounced dead at the university hospital.

Police and Lebanese Army soldiers sealed off the campus in west Beirut to search for a gunman and at least one accomplice, but no arrests were reported.

About four hours after the shooting an anonymous male telephone caller told the Beirut staff of Agence-Presse that "Islamic Jihad" was claiming responsibility for Mr Kerr's

death. The caller also said that the group - believed to be composed of Lebanese Shia Muslims loyal to Ayatollah Khomeini, the Iranian leader - had kidnapped Mr Hussein Abdullah Farrash, the Saudi Arabian consul in Beirut, on Tuesday.

The statement said: "The Saudi consul is still being held with us and is being tried according to Islamic law, and we will soon throw his body." implying that he would be killed.

Mr Kerr's predecessor at the American University, Mr David Dodge, was kidnapped in July 1982 and held for a year and two days by pro-Iranian gunmen in the Bekaa valley in eastern Lebanon and in Iran.

The statement went on to say that Mr Kerr, a highly respected political scientist, who had headed the university since the autumn of 1982, was targeted as "a victim of the American military presence in Lebanon."

It also contained this threat: "We also vow that not a single American or French will remain on this soil. We will not take up any different pattern, and we will not back off. We will follow all those Arab and Lebanese agents, be they responsible or simple collaborators with the Americans or French."

Elsewhere in Lebanon, several mortars fell on Christian neighbourhoods in and around east Beirut during the afternoon, and several mortars also were fired at Army positions in Khalde, south of Beirut.



Mr Malcolm Kerr: Respected political scientist

Gower report criticized

A major report advocating more protection for Britain's small investors was yesterday criticized by the Consumers' Association but welcomed by the establishment in the City of London.

The association wanted a ban on door-to-door selling of investments like unit trusts and life assurance, but Professor

Laurence "Jim" Gower, who wrote the report, said a code governing behaviour of salesmen would stop the worst abuses of high-pressure selling.

In the past three years, investors have lost a total of £36m in savings.

Leading article, Page 11
Tougher rules, Page 13
Two tiers, Page 15

NGA bows to courts in Shah dispute

The National Graphical Association effectively came to the end of the road in its long fight with Mr Eddie Shah's Messenger group of newspapers last night.

The print union's national council decided, after a four-hour debate, to purge its contempt of court. It said: "We need to have our assets restored to us so that we can maintain the union's work."

The union issued a statement after the meeting at its Bedford headquarters.

There was no indication of what was to become of the "Stockport Six", the NGA members whose dismissal by Mr Shah was at the centre of the closed shop dispute. The vote at the national council meeting was "overwhelming", according to the leadership.

The statement said: "The NGA will maintain its opposition to the 1980-1982 Employment Acts. The NGA believes that the TUC Wembley conference decisions entitle us to the support of the TUC in this dispute, even though we were obliged to take action categorized as unlawful under the terms of those Acts."

"We shall be campaigning with other TUC unions to get a re-examination of these decisions at the Trades Union Congress in September, and to get a reversal of the general council's decision denying the NGA the support to which we were entitled."

The long-running dispute has cost the NGA £675,000 in fines and thousands of pounds in costs. Assets amounting to £10m were sequestrated by the court.

The NGA insisted that its dispute with Mr Shah would continue, but "through other means". There will probably be no more mass pickets at Mr Shah's Warrington works.

Union rejects 3 per cent, and Maxwell drops court action, page 2

TUC seeks compromise on political levy ballots

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

TUC leaders decided yesterday to continue their talks with Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Employment, in the hope of reaching a compromise on government proposals over the political activities of trade unions.

But with time for such a deal running out, the TUC is now seeking big concessions from the Government. The unions want Mr King to drop from his Trade Union Bill a proposal for compulsory secret ballots every ten years on whether members of a union want to continue having a political fund.

In forthcoming talks, the TUC representatives, Mr Len Murray, the general secretary, and Mr William Keys, the print union leader, will offer Mr King voluntary measures to ensure that union members have a free choice as to whether to contrib-

ute to the Labour Party, in exchange for abandonment of periodic ballots.

Some union leaders such as Mr David Bassett, general secretary of the General Municipal, Boilermakers and Allied Trades Union, took a tougher line at a meeting of the TUC's employment policy and organization committee yesterday.

The committee is to meet again on February 15 to decide whether enough progress has been made in the delicate talks with Mr King to justify voluntary measures on the political levy. If not, the TUC will withdraw from the negotiations.

That increasingly likely outcome is expected to prompt a government amendment to the Bill introducing "contracting in" for payment of the political levy.

Better job prospects for graduates this year

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Job prospects for graduates are getting better this year, partly because the electronics and computer industries are continuing to need recruits but also because less likely companies, such as Macdonald's, the burger company, have joined the companies that tour the universities looking for young people to recruit.

That ray of hope among the usually gloomy predictions given annually by the Standing Conference of Employers of Graduates means that for the first time in three years there are signs of growth in the graduate employment market. Most of the 66,000 young people leaving universities and polytechnics this summer will find jobs. Unemployment among graduates may fall a

percentage point or so to 10 per cent.

But the standing conference emphasized yesterday that finding a job takes much longer now. Graduates have to wait longer to find what they want and must be prepared to consider a much wider range of occupations, taking temporary work while they look around.

"The concept of the graduate job is changing," Mr Keith Bell, chairman of the conference, said. "The idea of the graduate as a crown prince has gone."

The standing conference advised caution in interpreting the figures because there will be about 5,500 more graduates on the market this summer. They reflect the larger number graduating, the smaller pro-

portion of overseas students, and the reduction in some job outlets, notably academic research and teacher training.

At the same time it believes that that will be more than offset by the slightly more buoyant state of demand.

Small employers are setting out to recruit graduates, in small numbers but steadily, particularly computer companies dealing in software. However, the universities will be producing fewer graduates in electronics from now on because of the cuts in higher education.

The standing conference says that the shortage of graduates in electronics is likely to get worse next year and that it is already proving



necessary for employers to attract graduates from other disciplines as "converts".

It predicts that there might be a slight increase in demand in the oil and chemical industries and says that more civil engineers are being sought although the number studying the subject is falling. There are likely to be a few more openings for surveyors.

London University has 70 job vacancies on its books this week from 50 companies. The standing conference declined to say in which disciplines students would be at an advantage when it came to finding jobs, apart from the obvious one of electronics. Much more depended on what you were like than the subject you had read, they said. The most useful A levels for jobs were mathematics and physics.

Every local community should have one. Or two.

Bovis Construction won a special Sports Council competition last year to develop a standardised approach to sports halls - SASH.

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Retired judge to head fourth inquiry into Kincora vice offences

The Government yesterday announced a fourth inquiry into the running of the Kincora children's home in Belfast and other homes and hostels in Ulster where staff have been found guilty of homosexual offences against residents or misconduct leading to disciplinary action.

The latest inquiry, to be chaired by Judge William Hughes, a retired English circuit judge, was announced in the Commons by Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, who expressed the hope that it would bring to an end a "chapter of rumour and innuendo".

The sentencing to imprisonment in 1981 of five people who committed sexual offences against children in their care led to persistent allegations of a homosexual vice ring centred on Kincora and involving

prominent Unionist politicians and civil servants.

After an inquiry by the Royal Ulster Constabulary, Sir George Terry, the Chief Constable of Sussex, held an investigation into allegations about the way the police has conducted their inquiries, and there was a third inquiry by child-care experts of the Department of Health and Social Security.

Mr Prior told MPs yesterday that the Terry inquiry had concluded that the RUC was justified in not mounting a full investigation before it did, in 1980; that there had been no concealment of evidence of a homosexual ring nor evidence of homosexual practices by officials or police officers; but that there were shortcomings in the administration of the child welfare services.

Mr Prior said that no evidence had been produced to justify the establishment of a

tribunal of inquiry, but that the Hughes inquiry will be able to sit in public if it wishes. He said that those who gave evidence "in good faith" would have protection from proceedings for defamation.

Although it was "exceedingly unlikely" that fresh evidence justifying prosecution would emerge, the Attorney General would give immunity from prosecution for evidence which would incriminate a witness in respect of homosexual and related offences.

The inquiry will consider how those responsible for providing residential care could have prevented the commission of offences or detected them earlier and the adequacy and effectiveness of arrangements for supervising and protecting children in care and make recommendations to promote their welfare and prevent future malpractice.

Fleet Street union rejects 3% offer

National newspaper publishers yesterday offered pay rises of 3 per cent to 30,000 printing workers in Fleet Street and Manchester and proposed measures to reduce manpower in the industry.

Printing union leaders, who had asked for 10 per cent increases and a sixth week's holiday, rejected the offer but the two sides are to meet again on February 6 and the opening round of negotiations was described as "not acrimonious".

In the meantime, unions and the Newspaper Publishers Association will exchange views on the interpretation of the present wage agreement. The employers are seeking agreement from the unions that workers who leave the industry should not automatically be replaced.

The publishers would also like an assurance from the unions that there will be no disruption of production of any title for the next year.

The unions expect an improvement on the original offer next month, although the publishers are understood to be determined this year to attach conditions to the final settlement that will reduce manning

Rig yard plea to Thatcher

Leaders of the shipbuilding unions will today request an urgent meeting with the Prime Minister over the future of the Scott Lithgow yard on the Clyde, which is under threat of closure with the loss of 4,000 jobs.

A deputation organized by the Scottish TUC and expected to include general secretaries of the main unions involved, will ask Mrs Margaret Thatcher to use her influence to persuade the management to renegotiate an £88m contract for an oil rig which Britoil has cancelled.

The cancellation, prompted by the rig's being two-and-a-half years behind schedule, means the workforce will be reduced to about 700 by March. Unless British Shipbuilders finds a private buyer for the yard by the end of the summer it will close.

Mr James Miles, general secretary of the Scottish TUC, said: "If Scott Lithgow closes it would have a disastrous impact on the community, which is highly dependent on shipbuilding."

Mr Graham Day, chairman of the union, told the unions on Tuesday that there could be no question of renegotiating the Britoil contract, because the two sides were in the middle of litigation.

● The Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions decided yesterday to support any action taken by the Scott Lithgow workers (the Press Association reports).

It also agreed to invite Labour's industry spokesmen and parliamentary shipbuilding group, as well as chief officials of the 14 unions involved, to a meeting in London on Monday.

A mass meeting of Scott Lithgow workers on Friday will decide whether to take industrial action.

Mr Gordon Wilson, leader of the Scottish National Party, called on all opposition parties to unite to save the yard.

● Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, assured MPs that he would do anything he could to ensure the rig was completed on the Clyde.

He made no response to the opposition requests that he get British Shipbuilders and Britoil round the table immediately to ensure no possibility of saving the contract was missed.

Parliament, page 4

BBC and Maxwell drop court action

Court action over the refusal of the printing union Sogat '82 to produce or distribute the London edition of the *Radio Times* has been dropped. But the dispute is likely to go on.

The BBC and Mr Robert Maxwell's British Printing and Communications Corporation (BPCC), which produces the magazine, decided yesterday to halt a High Court application, which would have resulted in a contempt of court hearing this week.

The decision was prompted by the BBC's cancellation of the contract for the 600,000 copies and its search for alternative printers.

Mr William Keys, general secretary of the union, has made clear his defiance of a High Court order taken out on January 11 instructing the union to lift its restrictions on the *Radio Times* and *The Listener*.

But the ending of legal action does not guarantee the re-appearance of the publications in the London area or ensure there will be no more court orders. It is highly unlikely that, even if the BBC found non-union printers, Sogat's London branches would agree to distribute it.

The BBC said yesterday that its priority was to achieve the unimpeded weekly production of the London edition of the *Radio Times* and guaranteed production of *The Listener*.

In the last two and a half years more than 32 million copies of the *Radio Times* have been lost because of a dispute over BPCC's Park Royal plant in north London.

The company and the union have been in dispute over pay and manning levels on a £10m web offset printing machine that BPCC wanted to install at the plant.

Mr Maxwell, chairman of the company, said at the weekend that the plant would now be sold.

Fourth man on kidnap charge

A fourth man was charged at the special criminal court in Dublin yesterday in connection with the kidnap of Mr Richard Kirkpatrick, the Irish National Liberation Army "supergrass".

Gregory Carroll, aged 19, of Armagh in Northern Ireland, with an address at Mullaghmart, Co Monaghan, was charged with falsely imprisoning Mr Kirkpatrick, co Donegal, between August 16 and 19 last year. He was remanded in custody.

Police question man on killings

Dublin police were questioning a man yesterday about the killings last November of three men during a service at the Elm Pentecostal Church in Dardilly, Co. Armagh.

The three victims died when gunmen fired shots in the church as hymns were being sung.

Blacks 'do not vote as racial group'

Black voters are likely to remain loyal to the Labour Party although they do not vote as a racial group, according to an analysis by the Runnymede Trust in the last general election.

The paper suggests that black voters are more likely to identify themselves as working class because of the disadvantages and discrimination they suffer than as a racial group.

That class identification would lead them to vote for the

Labour Party, although their votes would begin to fragment as more moved out of black communities and achieved commercial and academic success.

"Labour Says he's Black. Tories Say he's British."

It had been directed at aspiring middle class black voters who did not want to be identified with the stereotypical image of their ethnic group, and while racists who were suspicious of the Labour Party's commitment to positive discrimination.

The Conservative Party did



Rescue from the Needles

GLC Tory leader has reservations on abolition

Leaders in London local government followed the Government's parliamentary embarrassment with a series of attacks on ministers.

Mr Ted Knight, Labour borough councillor and the association was formed by Labour councillors last year as an alternative to the Conservative-led London Boroughs Association.

At the press conference Mr Knight said: "We are totally opposed to the White Paper." He was referring to the 1983 government document *Streamlining the Cities*, which called for abolition of the GLC and the six English metropolitan counties.

Mr Knight said in Brixton that council services would have to be cut by a quarter with the loss of 3,000 jobs if councillors accepted the spending target issued by ministers. The largest saving possible without damaging services was 15m out of a budget of £125m.

Unemployment and social deprivation in the borough were worse than at the time of the Brixton riots of 1981, Mr Knight added. Government penalties for alleged "overspending" might force the council to raise rates by as much as 41 per cent.

Mrs Margaret Hodge, chairman of the Association of London Authorities, said after meeting Mr Knight for an hour: "I do not think he will have much regard for what we said. This has been deliberately robbed of resources and it is

Ford job losses

The announced closure of Ford's Dagenham foundry, with the loss of 2,000 jobs, is the first move in reorganization of its European engine plants that will boost output at the company's plant in Cologne at the expense of another 1,700 British jobs, it was claimed last night.

Component sources in the West Midlands reported yesterday that Ford's purchasing department was making inquiries about supplies which will be required for a new family of petrol engines, codenamed R4 and replacing the present 1.6 and two-litre engines used in Sierra cars and transit vans.

Ford is apparently planning to invest £100m in R4, which will increase the size of its standard medium engine from 1.6 to 1.8 litres. The production target for the R4 in Cologne is 1,500 engines a day compared with 1,000 at present and will be in full swing by early 1986.

Ford chiefs have attempted to counter union criticism by suggesting that the new 1.6 litre high-torque diesel engine which has just gone into production at Dagenham will fill the gap when the Sierra engine moves to West Germany. The intention is that



Mr Rodney Pereira with his wife Gail and daughter Keira

Villagers support couple's appeal against deportation

An Indian couple fighting deportation from their home in a Hampshire village are to learn within 10 days whether they can stay in Britain.

Mr Rodney Pereira, aged 33, and his wife Gail, aged 28, of Bishop's Waltham, are awaiting the decision of a Southampton immigration appeals tribunal, which heard their case on Tuesday.

That case has become something of a cause célèbre in the village, whose residents have held public meetings to protest against the deportation order and have petitioned the Queen and the Home Office to allow the couple and their daughter Keira, aged three, to stay.

Father Declan Lang, their parish priest, said yesterday: "The Catholic community in Bishop's Waltham and the surrounding villages are very fond of Gail and Rodney and hope they will be able to stay. They are very much part of the community."

As English-speaking Roman Catholics, Mr Pereira said, the family would face prejudice in India, even though he still has relatives in Bombay. As a former Merchant Navy officer,

Warning by BMA of doctors' defiance

Doctors would defy instructions given to them by health service general managers if patient care was threatened, the chairman of the British Medical Association, Mr Anthony Graham, told the House of Commons Social Services Committee last night.

Giving evidence to the committee on the Griffiths report on health service management Mr Graham said that if the proposed general manager "took decisions which were to our patients we would not feel bound to carry out those instructions."

Asked by Mr Nicholas Winterton Tory MP for Macclesfield, if he thought such conflict likely Mr Graham said that the Griffiths proposals were too vague for doctors to discover their precise role. "The point is we do not know," he said.

Doctors saw no reason to take decision-making from collective groups of professionals and hand it to a layman. "The type of management used in trade or commerce may not be appropriate in health care," Mr Graham said.

Dr John Havard, secretary of the BMA, told the committee: "Griffiths is almost completely silent on the matter of medical advisory machinery." Instead, he proposed, team management should continue with an elected chairman paid to take overall decisions on the advice of medical staff.

Mr Graham feared that autocratic general managers were being imposed on professional teams by default. "We are arguing against a case which we have not yet seen. Perhaps our fears are groundless, but we need more information."

On the report he added: "I cannot see any major suggestion to which we warm. I don't think Griffiths has found anything new."

Mr Trevor Clay, general secretary of the Royal College of Nursing, told the committee: "We believe that the Griffiths recommendation is radical and unnecessary, and will cause divisiveness within the health service."

Mr David Crouch, Conservative MP for Canterbury asked whether the college accepted that a driving force in management was needed. Mr Clay replied: "Society would be the poorer if nurses were not in that management arena."

Mr Winterton questioned the need for some hospitals to spend an extra £700,000 a year on nurses overlapping for three and a half hours on shifts, but Mrs Mary Lawrence, chief nursing officer in St Thomas's district in London, said that time was essential for teaching student nurses.

● Five hundred family doctors met yesterday to protest against plans to cut drastically their use of deputizing services (the Press Association reports).

Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Minister of Health, claims some doctors are abusing the service.

Commentary

Geoffrey Smith

One of the common features of any legislation on local government is that most people in this country will not understand it. Local government itself is complex, and any attempt to reform it is bewildering. So it is unlikely that there will be a surge of popular protest, or of popular acclaim, over the Government's ratifying Bill. But this does not mean that it is of no political importance.

It is essentially a politician's issue in the sense that it is the politicians themselves who are most worked up about it. This means that its effects upon the political landscape will be largely indirect.

The principle of financial autonomy for local government, which so exercised the House of Commons on Tuesday, will not set pulses racing up and down the country. Local councillors are not exactly the folk heroes of our age.

Whether the most controversial section of the Bill - the general powers to curb local authority expenditure - remains in the legislation is unlikely to become a subject of fervent public debate at the bus-stop. It is hard to see that these particular provisions are necessary to the Government's purpose, as ministers have explained that purpose. The selective powers would seem to be sufficient for that task.

Amendments to the Bill, no matter how major they may be, will be of broader political consequence only in so far as they affect the Government's general standing.

Reputations of ministers at stake

But there is this political dimension. The reputation of individual ministers are very much at stake. So too is the morale of the Government. It has a delicate judgment to exercise. It may wish to exaggerate the importance of particular clauses in the Bill so as to deter its supporters, both in the Commons and the Lords, from insisting upon changes. But while such a strategy might make defeats rather less likely, it would also make those that do occur more important. In political terms, defeats will matter, as the Bill goes through Parliament, only to the extent that the Government makes them matter.

The challenge to the Government comes from three sources: from disaffected Conservative backbenchers in the Commons, most of whom are concerned with anxiety for local government from Tory and cross-bench peers who do feel strongly about local government; and from the local Conservative Party outside Parliament.

This last element should not be underestimated. Local councillors may not be loved by the general public, but they are more powerful now in the Conservative Party than ever before. They hold office in the constituency associations. Together with aspiring councillors, they are the lifeblood of the party at local level.

Heavyweights in search of prey

They are also more inclined than in the past to put a bit of pressure on their MP. A good many Conservative members have had some uncomfortable meetings in their constituencies over this Bill, although the protests are more likely to come from rural than urban areas.

Whether this pressure will be sufficient to bring about substantial amendments during the committee stage cannot properly be judged from the second reading debate. When the backbench heavyweights are roaming the forest in search of their prey there may be a tendency to be too much impressed by the names rather than the number of the rebels.

At this stage it looks as if the Bill is in greater danger of being severely mangled in the Lords. It will not be thrown out there, because it would not be in the spirit of the upper house today to reject a measure which had been a major item in the manifesto of the winning party at a recent general election. But any peer who did not like the legislation might reflect that it would strengthen the reputation of the Lords for thinking independently if they did not shrink from amending significantly one of the principal Conservative Bills of the session.

In due course, though, the Bill is almost certain to be passed with enough of its substance intact. The critical political questions are whether in the process ministers will have outraged too many of their supporters and whether they will give the impression of having lost their touch.

Plant breeding unit fights to save scientists' jobs

From Tim Jones, Cardiff

The Government has been warned that the decision to save £13m on the spending of the Agricultural and Food Research Council will disastrously erode the scientific expertise of the Welsh Plant Breeding Station at Aberystwyth.

Politicians, unions, and academics have combined to try to reverse the decision which they say will worsen an already lamentable situation caused by serious under-funding.

Since it was founded 60 years ago the station has won an international reputation for its pioneering work in plant breeding, grassland improvement, and research.

Because of the instruction to save £500,000 a year, a quarter of the scientific staff of 150 are to lose their jobs.

Compared with the £15 a hectare allocated to research in Scotland, Wales receives only £3. Although there are more dairy cows and sheep in Wales, Scotland has a key institute devoted to dairy research and another to hill farming.

Mr Raymond Jones, head of the station's chemistry department, which has been made redundant, said: "If the proposed cuts are carried out in their entirety this will fragment the station to a mere experimental farm for the powerful institutes outside Wales."

Overseas selling prices

| Country | Price |
|--------------|-------|
| Australia | £1.20 |
| Canada | £1.10 |
| Denmark | £1.00 |
| France | £0.90 |
| Germany | £0.80 |
| Greece | £0.70 |
| Ireland | £0.60 |
| Italy | £0.50 |
| Japan | £0.40 |
| Netherlands | £0.30 |
| Portugal | £0.20 |
| Spain | £0.10 |
| Sweden | £0.00 |
| Switzerland | £0.00 |
| USA | £0.00 |
| West Germany | £0.00 |
| Yugoslavia | £0.00 |

'Needless delays' make thousands wait up to 12 weeks for abortions

By Thomson Prentice

Thousands of women who are referred medically for abortions have to wait for up to 12 weeks before they receive the operation under the National Health Service, according to a report published yesterday.

The report, by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, criticizes needless delays caused by inefficient administration and emphasizes the greater risks of complications and of psychological and emotional difficulties among women who have abortions after the twelfth week of pregnancy.

One in five women medically referred for the operation before the twelfth week of pregnancy did not have the abortion until between the twentieth and twenty-third weeks, according to a survey involving 678 doctors in England and Wales.

That delay was described as "appalling and unforgivable" yesterday by the British Pregnancy Advisory Service, which has thirty centres and five clinics in Britain.

In the report, *Late Abortion in England and Wales*, the college says that despite the risks involved in late abortions, neither women seeking such abortions nor those providing abortion services fully realize the importance of minimizing delay.

"Since young women form a large proportion of those having delayed abortions, there is an

urgent need to provide more education for them about the recognition of pregnancy, and about the urgent need to seek help, advice, and counselling whenever pregnancy is recognized."

"This is true whether the pregnancy is planned or unplanned, wanted or unwanted", the college says.

"Some unnecessary delays are caused by inefficiencies in the administration of the abortion services. This was shown by long intervals between referral for abortion and consultation."

The college recommends that appointments should be made, preferably by telephone, without necessarily waiting for the results of pregnancy tests. It also calls for studies into the possibility of performing some late abortions as day cases in health service hospitals.

More than 160,000 abortions are carried out each year in England and Wales. Twenty per cent of them, involving 32,000 women, are conducted between the thirteenth and twenty-seventh weeks of pregnancy.

Such human factors as indecision and apprehension among women were factors involved in about 50 per cent of late abortions, and failure to recognize pregnancy was a factor in more than 30 per cent.

The report says that it found delays occurring between consultation and the operation

"though such delay was rarely of significant length in the private sector".

It adds: "These objective measures of delay suggest that deficiencies in the organization of the abortion service, especially in the NHS, makes a substantial contribution to avoidable delay in second trimester abortion, a factor not often acknowledged by respondents to the questionnaires. These, it must be remembered, were the doctors carrying out abortions, not the women who were using the service."

The delay of up to 12 weeks between medical referral for abortion and the operation was described as "appalling and unforgivable" yesterday by Mrs Diane Munday, spokeswoman for the British Pregnancy Advisory Service.

The Co-ordinating Committee in Defence of the 1967 Abortion Act, which represents 59 member organizations including the Family Planning Association, the Brook Advisory Centres, and the Pregnancy Advisory Service, said yesterday that it supported the college's recommendations for more day care services.

"Most of the delays in abortion operations are caused by the administrators of the service rather than by the women themselves," the committee coordinator, Miss Joanna Chambers, said.

Leading article, letters, page 11



Rank outsider: Elizabeth Wilks, aged 17, one of the few girls ever to head a public school, with fellow pupils at Worksop College, Nottinghamshire, after she became Captain yesterday. Boys outnumber girls by five to one at the school

Bookmakers back Bill to win trade

By Robert Morris

The alleged inability of customs officers to crack down on illegal betting in Britain is being challenged by bookmakers.

The Betting Office Licensees Association believes that spending cutbacks have restricted the resources the Customs and Excise Department can allocate to combat illegal gambling, and that this explains the department's lukewarm attitude to a suggested investigation of illegal gambling.

With the Home Office understood to be favouring a private member's Bill introduced by Sir Ian Gilmour, Conservative MP for Chesham and Amersham, aimed at making betting offices more attractive, the association is stepping up its campaign in support of the Bill.

To be given its second reading in March, it would allow betting shops to install television sets and soft drink machines.

Bookmakers have been complaining for some time that the spartan surroundings of betting shops encourage people to go to illegally-operated pubs and clubs.

The bookmakers' association, which has supplied information on illegal betting shops - from pubs where bets are taken over the bar to clubs where prices are displayed on a blackboard and racing commentaries provided by a national news agency - is now complaining that Customs and Excise has failed to follow up a number of tips.

Customs and Excise has maintained for some time that the bookmakers' claims are exaggerated and not supported by hard evidence.

Compensation fears over 'lost' holidays

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

A question mark hangs over compensation for lost package holidays with the news that a government final safety net fund has shrunk greatly.

The fund is designed to help those who suffer if a tour operator fails financially. It has fallen by two thirds since the Laker collapse, itself responsible for claims that wiped out nearly half of the fund's "lost" money.

The foreign package holidays industry is moving into a tough year with companies that are cutting prices in some cases slashing already badly reduced profit margins. Fears of collapses are growing.

The holidaymakers' last resort is the Air Travel Reserve Fund Agency whose chairman, Sir Kenneth Selby, yesterday reported £16.6m assets in the financial year ended March, 1983.

He said that to give the same financial safety net as when the fund was set up by the Government in 1975 after the Court Line/Clarksons collapse, it would need to have assets of £52m.

The agency was worried whether its funds would be adequate to meet future liabilities, particularly if there were another failure of a big operator, Sir Kenneth added.

He sees tougher monitoring of tour operators and a new system of insurance cover as key ways to tackle the problem.

He said: "It is not only the relative size of the fund but the timing of demands on it. If the Laker/Arrowsmith companies, which failed in February, 1982, had failed three months after they did, and had continued to trade at the level that they were

Police go easy on cannabis

The police now tend to take a more lenient view of casual cannabis smoking, the Police Federation said yesterday.

Earlier, south Yorkshire police said that first offenders caught in possession of small amounts of cannabis were more likely to be cautioned than charged.

Det Insp Colin Addison, head of the force's drugs squad, said: "We have to examine which drugs have the most harmful addiction, such as heroin, amphetamines, and LSD." Cautioning first-time cannabis offenders where there was no suspicion of dealing released manpower to deal with the growing problem of hard drugs.

Mr Tony Judge, a federation spokesman, said: "The police do not have the resources to control possession of cannabis. The law on possession is fairly unenforceable and it points to a growing lack of conviction that it is a sensible law." The courts did not regard casual smoking as a serious matter.

Railman stole credit cards

A British Rail guard who stole Access cards from mail bags and used them to buy £22,000 worth of goods was jailed for three years by Southend Crown court yesterday.

Michael Ford, aged 38, of Genesta Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex, pleaded guilty to eight specimen charges of stealing postal packets containing Access cards to obtain a television set, a diamond and sapphire ring, and 102 video tapes. He asked for 489 similar offences to be considered.

Testtube triplets due soon

Britain's first test tube baby triplets are due to be born within the next 10 days to a woman who does not wish to be named.

They are expected to be delivered by caesarean section this week or next, a spokesman for London's Cromwell hospital, where the embryos were implanted, said. The delivery will take place at an unnamed hospital.

Rapist jailed

Gerard Lacey, aged 25, an unemployed former soldier, of Macaulay Road, Clapham, London, was jailed for nine years by the Central Criminal Court yesterday after being found guilty of rape, attempted rape, indecent assault, and robbery.

'Heath pictures' denied

A woman denied at the Central Criminal Court yesterday that she had appeared in pornographic photographs with Mr Edward Heath, the former Prime Minister.

The woman, a mother of three children, whose former boy friend has pleaded not guilty to raping and assaulting her, said she had never met Mr Heath, or been photographed in indecent positions with men or children.

The man has asserted that the charges against him have been fabricated by the woman and the police. "He says they wish to muzzle his evidence to bring to book certain persons, including the woman, who he says appeared in pornographic photographs together with his two children", the court has been told by Mr Stephen

Mitchell, for the prosecution. The defendant had claimed he found photographs showing a man he recognized as Edward Heath and another man he has named as a Det Sgt Wallace. Mr Heath has denied being in the alleged photographs.

The woman said in evidence yesterday that, although the defendant had taken some pictures of her undressed, they were of her alone.

She said she had never been photographed with det Sgt Wallace or had sexual intercourse with him.

Cross-examined by the defendant, she denied ever seeing a briefcase in her home with the initials "E.A.H." on it. She also denied his allegation that she had been part of a prostitution ring. The trial was adjourned until today.

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ITV wants shared satellite with the BBC

By David Hewson

Britain's commercial television companies have decided that they want to resurrect the BBC's shelved satellite broadcasting system by sharing the costs and the three channels which it would offer.

The independent television companies have been involved in secret for weeks with the BBC about sharing the system and have approached the Independent Broadcasting Authority for permission to make formal approaches.

A senior independent television executive said last night that it was envisaged that a shared satellite would offer one premium film channel, run jointly by both partners, and two channels each offering the best of BBC and the independent companies. All three channels would be available by subscription only.

"There is a firm belief among us that there is room for only one premium move channel, which makes it common-sense for us to share the satellite", the executive said. "This would enable us to keep ahead in technology and maintain our present standards of output."

Many of the companies would probably turn to outside finance to help pay for their share of the satellite costs, which would be about £160m in hardware over seven years.

A key element in the companies' plans, however, will be to win the support of the Independent Broadcasting Authority, which will play a leading role in the future of a commercial satellite channel.

The companies are to press the authority to extend their broadcasting franchises, which are due to end in 1989, for an unspecified number of years to guarantee a return on their satellite investment.

Without such an extension, they believe that they would not be able to raise the money needed for the satellite scheme, or sufficient finance to become involved in the separate satellite channel which the authority already has in its gift.

A shared service is likely to appeal to the BBC, industry, and sections of the Government that will see it as a way of resurrecting the ambitious BBC plan which was shelved on grounds of cost.

Joseph tells schools to improve

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

Highly critical reports of a Baptist school in Coventry and an Orthodox Jewish school in east London, both independent, by the school inspectors (HMI) led Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education and Science, to demand yesterday that action be taken to improve matters.

The reports on the Coventry Christian Academy and Talmud Torah Machzikei Hadassah School, in Hackney, published yesterday show serious deficiencies in the premises, accommodation and instruction offered at those schools.

Sir Keith has, therefore, issued notices of complaint under Section 71 of the Education Act, 1944, requiring the proprietors to take remedial action.

At the Coventry school, set up in 1980 on the principles of the Accelerated Christian Education Inc of Louisville, Kentucky, the inspectors found the curriculum, as too narrow.

When inspected there were 55 pupils, aged four to 17. The school had suffered a high turnover of pupils, and staff lacked teaching experience and expertise.

At the Talmud Torah Machzikei Hadassah School, where there were 248 boys aged 2 to 13 at the time of the inspection, the report says that there was not enough time for secular work. That ranged from four to six hours a week.

The report adds: "There is an urgent need to allocate time to secular studies throughout the day, including mornings, so that the total hours a week can be raised to the normal minimum requirements of 15 hours for those above that age."

Cold cure plea

The Medical Research Council is urgently seeking healthy volunteers aged 18 to 50 to test anti-viral drugs against the common cold and influenza viruses at the Common Cold Unit at Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Mr Roberts was taken to the Royal Berkshire Hospital and was transferred later to the specialist spinal injury hospital at Stoke Mandeville, Buckinghamshire. His condition was said to be poor.

TSB raises mortgage rate to 11.5%

By Peter Wilson-Smith, Banking Correspondent

Home loans from the Trustee Savings Bank will cost more from March 1. The TSB group is pushing up its mortgage rate from 11 per cent to 11.5 per cent on loans of up to £30,000.

The increase will apply to present and new borrowers.

The group, which has lent nearly £1,000m in the mortgage market, is the third big bank to increase interest rates on home loans and its action has further dimmed hopes that mortgage rates will soon be on the way down.

Earlier this month, Midland raised the cost of its home loans by half a percentage point to 11.25. Lloyds decided on an even bigger rise of 0.75 percentage point to 11.75 although that applied to new borrowers only.

At the end of last year there were hopes that the building societies' 11.25 per cent rate would soon fall, but there is little chance of that happening until later in the year.

TSB group increase will raise net monthly payments by £5.75 to £184.50 for borrowers with a £25,000 mortgage spread over 25 years. The group usually charges 0.5 per cent extra on loans of more than £30,000.

● The Woolwich Equitable Building Society announced yesterday plans to raise mortgage lending by 40 per cent this year and make loans available to members and non-members. The total of home loans is planned to rise to £1,400m compared with £1,000m last year.

About six hundred applications have been received from investors in the New Cross Building Society claiming hardship as a reason for needing access to their savings. Mr Michael Tuke, the new chief executive of the society, said yesterday.

Trading watchdogs plead for counties

By Arthur Osma

The consumer protection departments of the six threatened metropolitan counties open their own battle for survival with a one-day conference at the House of Commons today.

The conference is a further step by the counties of Greater Manchester, Merseyside, South Yorkshire, Tyne and Wear, West Midlands, and West Yorkshire to challenge government plan to abolish them.

The six chairmen of the various trading standards and consumer protection committees also published a joint 14-page document today claiming they have provided "effective, efficient, and economic value" for 11.3 million people. The annual cost of a head of population of trading standards departments in the six counties was 89.4p, compared with 169.5p in the London boroughs. The six counties employ 730 people in the field.

The document entitled *Trading Standards in the Metropolitan Counties*, says that the service ensures uniformity by co-ordination and liaison, maximizing the economics of scale and being able to meet ever-changing needs.

It helps to stem the flow of dangerous imported goods,

protects the quality of British goods, curbs the production of counterfeit products, fights unscrupulous second-hand car dealers, and monitors food production.

To split the service between district councils "will lead to a substantial increase in costs and a deterioration in the level of service".

The documents says: "Product counterfeiting is the boom industry of the 1980s. New and traditional industries are badly hit by this deceitful practice, as are the purchasers of inferior copies of genuine products."

"The size of the fraud is inevitably speculative but estimates put it between £500m and £1,000m." Action taken in the past year included the seizure of 50,000 video tapes and tens of thousands of items of clothing. "Investigations of this type can be protracted and complex, the frauds are not localized and the metropolitan counties have formed a joint group of officers to investigate these major frauds."

The document says that 68 per cent of all safety checks in Britain had been carried out by the six counties, and they had led the battle to control the second-hand car trade, which brought the greatest number of complaints from the public.

Jobless 'suicide risk'

More than half of all men who attempt suicide are unemployed, according to research published in the magazine *New Society* today.

People unemployed for more than a year are 19 times more likely to try to kill themselves, and 40 per cent of people appearing before English courts are unemployed, it says.

The author, Marjory Harris, says that most men are unskilled manual workers, and attempted suicide is highest in that class. So the determining factor may be class rather than unemployment.

The unemployed live on 40 per cent of what the employed are paid, he says. Their families tend to be more housebound, unable to afford trips to public houses, cinemas, relations or friends. They watch a lot of television and smoke too much.

"They are six times more likely to batter their children and twice as likely to get divorced."

Man admits thefts from bodies

A mortuary attendant said he stole money and jewelry from bodies when he gave evidence for the prosecution at the trial at Southark Crown Court yesterday of a second mortuary attendant.

Raymond Thomas, aged 26, of Gerriage Street, Southark, South London, who was jailed for 18 months, nine of which were suspended, had pleaded guilty to conspiracy to steal, theft, and handling stolen goods between November, 1981, and October, 1982.

The second mortuary attendant, Mr Aston Holmes, of Eveline Road, Peckham, South London was found not guilty of conspiracy to steal.

Cross-examination of killer delayed

The trial of Kathleen Calhaen, who is accused of hiring a man to murder a solicitor's wife, took a new turn yesterday when the defence said that it had "certain important fresh matters" to investigate.

Miss Calhaen, aged 57, a retired business woman, is alleged to have hired Julian Zajak, a part-time private investigator, for £10,000 to murder Mr Shirley Rendell, aged 46, at her home in Yatton, near Bristol, last February.

Zajak, a foundry worker aged 29 who is serving a life sentence for the murder, gave evidence at Winchester Crown Court on Tuesday and his cross-examination was due to have continued yesterday.

The trial was later in starting and when it did resume, Mr George Carman, QC, for the defence said: "Overnight certain

important fresh matters which may affect the further cross-examination of Mr Zajak, have come to light and into the possession of the defence."

He added that those matters required urgent investigations by his instructing solicitors.

Mr Justice Stuart-Smith agreed that further cross-examination should be delayed until this morning. The trial continued with other witnesses being called and statements being read to the jury.

Miss Calhaen, of The Link, Cheddar, Somerset, denies murdering Mr Rendell. The prosecution alleges she was motivated by her love of her solicitor, Mr Kenneth Pigot, aged 63, who was having an affair with Mrs Rendell.

The hearing was adjourned until today.

Hoax bomb case is dismissed

A couple charged with planting a hoax bomb in the grounds of an old people's home just before it was to be opened by the Princess of Wales had their case dismissed yesterday after the police offered no evidence.

Stuart Taylor, of Burton Road, and Susan Wood, of Hayscroft Road, both of Withington, Greater Manchester, both aged 32, had spent 10 nights in custody over Christmas waiting for the case to be dealt with. They had always denied the offence.

Mr David Gandy, for the prosecution, said at Manchester Magistrates' Court that the police had been unable to trace a taxi driver who had telephoned them reporting the incident.

The couple had pleaded guilty to stealing a plank of wood from a building site to use as firewood and possessing amphetamine sulphate.

They were conditionally discharged.

Birthday error

A message from the Queen arrived at the home in Goscoe Lodge Crescent, Wallis, West Midlands, home of Mr and Mrs Williams yesterday to congratulate him on his 100th birthday. Two days earlier Buckingham Palace had sent him a wedding anniversary message by mistake.

Bus station plan for Marylebone

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

The National Bus Company challenged British Rail's Inter-City and London commuter services yesterday with proposals to convert Marylebone Station into a coach terminal.

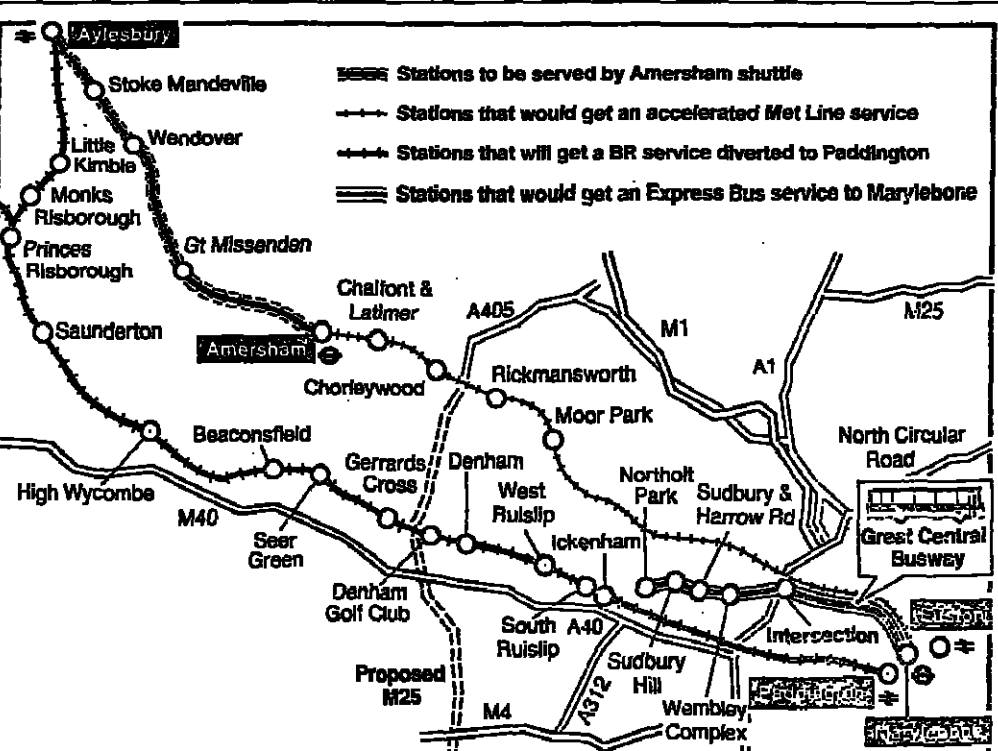
The plan would be to turn the rail track out of the station into an express busway extending 10 miles west towards the M25 and M40.

It would radically change the pattern of rail commuter services to Amersham, Aylesbury and High Wycombe, and would accelerate inter-city coach services into central London by up to an hour at peak times.

The new coach terminal at Marylebone, which could be operating by 1987, would handle two thirds of the rapidly expanding inter-city coach traffic at present handled by Victoria coach station, and provide relief to congested streets around the coach station in Belgravia.

The scheme's future depends largely on British Rail, which refused to comment yesterday pending completion of their own study at the end of next month, and Mr Nicholas Ridley, the Secretary of State for Transport.

British Rail may well hesitate to strengthen the hand of its competitors by providing fast new coach route into central



London. But it already wants to close Marylebone, and cut its losses of £750,000 a year on commuter routes out of it by working more closely with London Transport.

The scheme could be worth several million pounds a year to BR if, as National Bus suggests, it retains ownership of the Marylebone site and develops it commercially as well as providing for a bus station development on it.

The National Bus study calculates that it would cost only £10.3m to convert the track to a busway, which would

yield substantial tolls for BR from coaches running over it.

The plan has been prepared by the Joint Centre for Land Development Studies (a partnership between Reading University geography department, under Professor Peter Hall, and the College of Estate Management).

It would take about 250,000 coach trips a year off existing roads.

The report appears to contradict a statement by Mr Ridley in the Commons on Monday that such a scheme would involve "great engineering

difficulties, especially if the tunnel is too narrow for two buses".

Calculations by the consulting engineers, Sir William Halslow and Partners, who assisted with the study, show that two double-deckers could pass in opposite directions throughout the route except for a short pinch point at Hampton where a one-way system would be operated but without difficulty or delay, National Bus said yesterday.

About 4,200,000 passengers a year use the present Marylebone commuter services.

A motor cyclist lay freezing and badly injured beside the M4 for almost eight hours before he was found at 6am yesterday by his family, who had spent all night driving up and down the motorway searching for him.

Mr Glenn Roberts aged 28, of Spencer's Wood, Reading, was discovered lying in a water-filled ditch near junction 11, south of Reading. He was suffering from severe spinal injuries and exposure. His motor cycle was lying in two feet of water hidden from the motorway.

His wife Karen became concerned when he failed to

return from work at the Castrol research station in Pangbourne.

With her father, Mr Kenneth Smith, of Whitley Wood, Reading, they started to search, tracing Mr Roberts's journey from his workplace, which he left at about 10.15pm on Tuesday night after finishing his late shift.

Mrs Doreen Smith, Mrs Roberts's mother, described the all-night search: "They drove along the motorway between junctions 12 and 11 time and again. In the end, they got out of the car at 100-yard intervals. They knew that he had to be somewhere along the road and

instinctively guessed he was in trouble."

Mrs Roberts and her father eventually discovered the motor cyclist at the bottom of an embankment.

An inquiry into the incident has begun at Thames Valley Police headquarters. Senior police were concerned that it was so long before Mr Roberts was found.

Mr Roberts was taken to the Royal Berkshire Hospital and was transferred later to the specialist spinal injury hospital at Stoke Mandeville, Buckinghamshire. His condition was said to be poor.

PARLIAMENT January 18 1984

Row over cancelled oil rig contract: talks demanded

SCOTT LITHGOW

Amid bitter Labour criticism, anger and calls for his resignation because of the serious situation prevailing at the Scott Lithgow yard on the Clyde following Britoil's decision in December to cancel its oil rig contract, Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, said in the Commons that he would do anything he could to ensure, if it was possible, that the rig be completed on the Clyde by some means or other.

In noisy question time clashes, both Mr Donald Dewar, chief Opposition spokesman on Scotland, and his predecessor and former Secretary of State, Mr Bruce Millan, called on Mr Younger to get Britoil and British Shipbuilders around the table now.

Mr Younger replied that he would be more impressed if either of the Labour spokesmen had uttered one word of leadership to the Scott Lithgow workforce either to sign the working agreement or not to take part in the planned national strike. For a year he had been warning everyone that this was likely to happen. He had been giving leadership; the only trouble was that he had not given it sufficiently loudly for those concerned to hear and understand and do anything about it.

Mr Michael Hirst (Strathkelvin and Bearsden, C) began, the exchanges that the CBI in Scotland shared the concern of the House and the Scottish people about the future of Scott Lithgow. The only practical solution now (he went on) appears to be the acquisition of this yard by an enterprise or consortium, whether United Kingdom or foreign, with expertise and commercial reputation to build sophisticated oil-related structures.

If he agreed, could he give an assurance that he and his ministers would do all in their power to enable the acquisition to take place and thus protect an important part of the Scottish industrial infrastructure?

Mr Younger: I entirely share his concern and that of other MPs at the extremely serious situation we have watched develop on the lower Clyde. I shall be only too willing to do anything I can to assist in ensuring that somehow, if possible, this great rig shall be completed on the Clyde.

Mr Roy Jenkins (Glasgow, Hillhead, SDP) Has he, in his discussions with the CBI or in his own mind, had any indications as to what are the relative costs of the immediate closure of the yard on the one hand or making it worth while on the other for Britoil to agree to the completion of the rig?

Mr Younger: It does not appear primarily to be a matter of cost. The calculation of the balance of cost depends crucially upon what view British Shipbuilders take about the likely cost of completing the rig under the present contract.

For whatever reasons, the customers lost confidence in the suppliers. That is why they decided to terminate the contract.

De Norman Geddes (Greenock and Port Glasgow, Lab) he mentioned confidence. When will he defend with conviction and principle the economic and social interests of the people employed at Scott Lithgow?

Mr Younger: As far back as last April I held the first of my meetings with the CBI. At that time I spelled out clearly that I was extremely concerned about the future of this contract. I am only sorry that there was no quicker response to the suggestions I then made.

Mr Nicholas Baden (Wolverhampton South-West, C) When he meets the leaders of the Scottish CBI will he remind them that every time they ask for special privileges and get them there is a counter-reaction in the West Midlands?

Mr Younger: I share his proper concern for the West Midlands. Regional policy is a British, not a Scottish, policy. It has served British regions well over the past 25 years, creating something like 100,000 new jobs in Scotland alone and something like 500,000 in Britain as a whole.

Mr Bruce Millan (Glasgow, Govan, Lab) Is it not clear that a third party will take over that yard except at public expense? The most obvious, direct and cheapest way of saving that yard is to get Britoil and British Shipbuilders into negotiation. If the Government stands back and does not intervene to bring that about, it will be conniving at the massacre of thousands of jobs. (Labour cheers)

Mr Younger: He should be best advised that this was a contract entered into perfectly freely between British Shipbuilders and Britoil. It had normal terms and conditions of the normal sort agreed freely between them.

For whatever reasons, during the contract the customer lost confidence in the ability of the firm to complete the rig on time. It was the customer who terminated that contract. It was not the Government.

Mr Norman Buchan (Paisley South, Lab) The only group in Scotland who do not understand that we are at the moment in a short gap of time in which an element of action to solve the problem of Scott Lithgow is himself and his colleagues in the Cabinet.

Yet he has used the opportunity of this gap to insult the workers of Scott Lithgow in the same way as the Prime Minister, Mrs Thatcher, did a month before the House. Mr Younger can lift his little finger just now and solve the problem. If he does not we shall have a horrendous unemployment problem in the most isolated section of the lower Clyde.

Mr Younger: For nearly a year I have been publicly and very obviously warning everyone that

this was likely to happen. Not one word has been said by the Labour Party in encouragement to the people concerned in Scott Lithgow to realize the seriousness of the situation. That is a disgraceful commentary on their inability to take part in this important matter. I have made it clear all along that I will do anything I can to try and ensure, if it is possible, that this rig be completed on the Clyde by some means or other.

Mr Harry Ewing (Falkirk East, Lab) In view of the state of the Scottish economy, Mr Younger's own work rate would not stand much examination. Why, with his record at Linwood, the Fort William pulp mill and the Invergordon smelter, should we believe in or trust him to save jobs?

Mr Younger: Mr Ewing should know better than to take a selective view. He has good reason to thank the Government for helping to bring Wang to his own end. He ought to be a bit more even-handed in what he says.

Mr Alister McQuarrie (Banff and Buchan, C) It is only one of the death throes of Scott Lithgow that workers and management have realized the desperate situation. The leadership is there, on this side of the House.

What we want from workforce and management is a categorical assurance that if there is any possibility of this yard being saved, they will give a guarantee to the Secretary of State that they will hold to whatever agreement necessary to ensure the future of the yard.

Mr Younger: There has never been, and is not now, any difference between me and the representatives at Scott Lithgow that if there are faults they are on both the

management side and the workforce side. It is a bit hard when I was one of the only people who has given any leadership over the past months. The only trouble is that I did not give it sufficiently loudly for those concerned to hear, understand and do anything about it.

Mr Donald Dewar, chief Opposition spokesman on Scotland (Glasgow, Garscadden, Lab) There is deep and justified anger in Scotland at the lamentable spectacle

management side and the workforce side. It is a bit hard when I was one of the only people who has given any leadership over the past months. The only trouble is that I did not give it sufficiently loudly for those concerned to hear, understand and do anything about it.

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of the Secretary of State sitting passively and ineffectively while thousands of jobs are lost on the lower Clyde. Worse still, he is trying to cover his own glaring inadequacies by misconceived and tasteless attacks on the workforce whom he is trying to make the sole scapegoat for the whole catastrophe.

If Mr Younger had acted decisively there would not be any need to be scrambling around looking for some sort of private sector rescue.

If it is possible for a third party to come in and complete the contract, why is it not possible for British Shipbuilders to do it, given that they will have to fund the losses up-to-date.

The minimum we ask the Government is that Mr Younger gets British Shipbuilders and Britoil round a table now and make sure there is not possibility missed of saving this contract, which is in the interest of the workers on the lower Clyde and the interests of this country if it is to have a credible position in North Sea technology.

Mr Younger: I would be more impressed if Mr Dewar or his predecessor (Mr Bruce Millan) had uttered one word of leadership to the people concerned in Scott Lithgow in the past year either to sign the working agreement or not to go on the planned national strike. Not one word was there from the Labour Party.

There is no difference of opinion between myself and the workforce and management that there have not been faults on both sides. While I share the grave concern of everyone about this situation, I at least can claim to have shown leadership for nearly a year to put it right. I have had no support from the Labour Party.

Mr Malcolm Bruce (Gordon, L) said loss of a major capacity in offshore technology which would result from closure of Scott Lithgow would take away all of the nation's ability to compete in this area.

It is difficult to conceive (he said) of a private buyer taking over a yard that Mr Younger has said the Minister and the Government have spent many months running down, condemning and rubbishing. This will not enable Scott Lithgow to maintain its proper place in offshore technology.

Mr Younger agreed that to lose entirely the capability for building rigs, which was the main reason for the closure of Scott Lithgow, would be a disaster. He said that the Government had been clear that there was grave danger of the present situation happening.

Mr Bruce and his colleagues (he said) can claim to have taken some chance of leadership and said something constructive to try to persuade people to be sensible. It is a pity that the official Opposition did not join in.

Mr Anna McCrory (Renfrew, West and Inverclyde, C) said the Government had done all it could



McQuarrie: Workforce should give guarantee

financially. Over £100m had gone to Scott Lithgow to shore it up.

The only ultimate saving of Scott Lithgow was to take it away from its present management and put it into private hands.

Mr Younger: Not only has the Government been trying to help, it has made everyone to do everything possible to regain confidence between supplier and contractor, it has put in millions of pounds to help to keep the contract going - £13,000 per man employed.

It is necessary to see if there is a way of building up a management for this contract which will carry the conviction and confidence of the person who is to buy it - Britoil. We will do all we can to help to that end.

Mr Roy Jenkins: I do not agree with these routine insults against him. Having known several Secretaries of State in operation against Chancellors and other people, and given the appalling economic climate in which he has had to operate, he has not done too badly (Labour interruptions) - but unless Mr Younger takes a constructive initiative to bring Scott Lithgow and Britoil together, he will pour a sure on the oil.

Mr Younger: I am grateful for that. The House is always quick to be general to detect someone who has the integrity to speak the truth.

I appreciate that it is up to me and my colleagues to do all we can to help in this serious situation. I do not think there was any way in which the existing contract, as it stood, could have been rescued after the trouble it had got into.

But I assure him that we will do all we can to see if anything can be re-created in the area.

Mr Dewar asked Mr Younger why he had not recognized Mr Jenkins' integrity at the Hillhead election. The validity of his last remarks (he continued) and the judgement in them was perhaps shown by the long loss of the Liberal and SDP benches as he spoke.

On the future of the oil related industries (he said) we are worried about our credibility. But it does not help to have the Secretary of State making a series of contradictory statements. We have heard, between the Scottish workforce and coolies recruited from the paddy fields of Korea.

Mr Younger: He has not read what I said. I was making the point that if it was possible, as it clearly is, for structures of this kind to be made by people in much places as Korea, surely it is inconceivable that people on the lower Clyde, with long experience, cannot do it as well.



Flip joint: Lucky, a 400lb turtle, recovering in Iswanoroda, Florida, after Dr Patrick Barry (left) and Dr Robert Foley gave him a pair of artificial flippers costing £140,000. His own were bitten off by a shark.

Nigeria after the coup: Part 3

Next move in the power game

In the last of three articles on Nigeria, Kenneth Mackenzie examines the future implications of the seizure of power by General Mohammed Buhari.

If General Buhari's Government survives without falling victim to a coup, the next problem will be how to hand over power? And to whom? There are no easy answers.

In 1979 the military Government of General Obasanjo took infinite care, years of considering constitutions, the banning of the more compromised politicians and meticulously supervised elections.

But the result was failure. One of the senior men of the Obasanjo regime described the period of democratic government under President Shugu Shagari as "the worst disaster Nigeria has seen since independence".

He is General Theophilus Danjuma, who was Chief of Army Staff under General Obasanjo and now runs a shipping company. In an interview General Danjuma said he had often pondered about what they had done wrong.

"I think we were too naive," he said. "We trusted the civilians." They worried about the generation that had let the country down before 1966. The new generation proved even more corrupt.

General Danjuma agreed that corruption had always been part of Nigerian life, and that the previous military regimes had not been free of it. But before it had been "subtle, modest in amount". With President Shagari's Government came the "aggressive pursuit of corrupt money by ministers and officials alike, and the reckless display of corrupt acquisitions".

What could be done next time? Speaking personally, he wondered if there was not something to be learnt from the pre-colonial British example of

granting "self-government" before "independence". In other words, could not the military give a new lot of civilians a trial period, which would allow them to weed out the worst?

Other Nigerians have simpler hopes: a brisk period of effective and honest government from General Buhari which ends before the public have tired of military rule (as they did in 1979, after 13 years of it) and before power has corrupted (as it had by 1979).

Many Nigerians think there is nothing wrong with the present constitution. Trouble arose because the Shagari Government did not allow the checks and balances to operate, and did not hold free and fair elections.

Others claim that something much cheaper and simpler must be devised; something that did not create a class of privileged legislators but kept the ordinary people in touch and involved. That would require much thought and preparation.

A more difficult question is: How can future coups be prevented? This has been made more difficult by General Buhari's assumption that he had the right to take over, because he had the power to take over. Every coup makes another coup more likely.

General Danjuma recalled that the 1979 constitution has a clause forbidding coups and promising punishment. That of no help. If it were to be taken seriously, it would simply mean that no military general would be willing to hand over power again.

In fact, there could be no guarantees. But General Danjuma expressed doubts about whether the military really had the power to take over if there were solid civilian opposition.

He recalled that during the failed anti-Murtala coup of 1976, there had been pro-Murtala crowds thronging the streets before the final outcome was clear. During the Shagari coup there had been crowds dancing in the streets, even in his home state of Sokoto.

General Obasanjo, in handing over to President Shagari in 1979, was honest enough to say that whether the soldiers returned depended not on the military leadership but on what the civilians did.

In other words, the only effective weapon against a military coup is an effective civilian government. It will be General Buhari's difficult task to work out how yet another try at effective civilian government can be mounted.

There is a celebrated quotation from Henry Hallam (writing about Cromwell): "It is not in general difficult for an armed force to destroy a government; but something else than the sword is required to create one."

This should be inscribed in pokerwork and hung above the desk of General Buhari. Next to the one which says: "Power tends to corrupt."

General Danjuma: "We trusted the civilians".

Concluded

Judicial inquiry into Kincora

ULSTER

In the aftermath of the scandal surrounding the Kincora children's home in Northern Ireland, Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, is to set up a public inquiry under the leadership of Henry Hughes, a retired circuit judge.

In a statement to the House of Commons, Mr Prior said that the report of the inquiry will be published.

He said: In 1981 five people who had held positions of responsibility in homes and hostels for children and young people in Northern Ireland were sentenced to imprisonment for sexual offences against them in their care. Following these convictions the police continued their investigations into a number of outstanding matters, and the Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary asked Sir George Terry, then Chief Constable of Sussex, to investigate allegations about the way in which the police had conducted their inquiries and to have a general oversight of the continuing investigations.

The RUC have completed their investigations into the allegations. The inquiry has also been completed. He has concluded that the RUC were justified in not mounting a full investigation before they did, in 1980, that there had been no concealment of evidence of homosexual ring involving residents of the homes or others; nor evidence of homosexual practices by officials or police officers; and no view shortcomings regarding the administration of the child welfare services.

The Director of Public Prosecutions has considered all the papers and concluded that no

ground existed which would justify any further prosecutions connected with the affair.

The convictions in 1981 together with others in 1982 and the events surrounding these cases, have been the subject in Northern Ireland of allegations of misconduct and of widespread disquiet. No other inquiry could be pursued without the risk that it would have rendered further prosecutions impossible. Sir George Terry's investigation was thorough, and his conclusions, as they bear on some of the wider allegations, are clear.

Although the extensive investigations which have been conducted by Sir George Terry and the other members of the committee of inquiry would justify my asking the House to approve an inquiry under the Tribunals of Inquiry (Evidence) Act 1921, the House will share my wish to be satisfied that every possible step has been taken to ensure that there is no repetition of these untidy events.

I propose accordingly to establish a public inquiry under the powers contained in Article 54 of the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1972. His Honour Judge Hughes, a retired circuit judge, has agreed to chair the inquiry. The members of the committee of inquiry will be announced as soon as possible.

The full terms of reference will enable the inquiry to examine the administration of children's homes and young persons' hostels where residents were subjected to homosexual offences which led to convictions or disciplinary action against members of staff; the extent to which those responsible for residential care could have prevented the commission of such acts or detected their occurrence earlier; the implications for present procedures and practices within the system of residential care; and to make recommendations as to how to promote the welfare of such children and young persons and preventing any future malpractices.

The committee of inquiry will be able to take evidence from witnesses who have been asked for physical protection it would be given by the police.

Mr Prior said he felt a 1921 Act inquiry was not justified because none of the allegations investigated by the Terry report and by the police had suggested to him that it was a matter which would justify such an inquiry.

The Salmon report said that the 1921 Act should only be used in very exceptional cases and that was not the case in this case, particularly in the manner of the inquiry and the terms of reference, with an experienced judge, as they had been able to obtain, would give opportunity for all matters relevant to what had happened in the boys' homes over the years and the innuendo surrounding the affair to be properly examined.

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to determine its mode of operations and from which it will seek evidence. It will be able to sit in public if it wishes.

Although the inquiries by the RUC and Sir George Terry, taken with the decision of the Director of Public Prosecutions, mean it is exceedingly unlikely that fresh evidence justifying prosecution will emerge, the Attorney General has undertaken to give immunity from prosecution for evidence which would incriminate a witness in respect of offences such as counselling, procuring or soliciting.

The inquiry will have power to subpoena evidence in Northern Ireland and its report will be published.

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Government urged to rebuild Britain

HOUSE OF LORDS

Britain depended on a Victorian infrastructure which was a remarkable achievement when constructed a century ago but was now badly in need of replacement instead of repair and patching up here and there. Lord Cledwyn of Penrhys (Lab) said in House of Lords.

He was opening a debate calling attention to the urgent need to modernize and improve the UK's infrastructure, including the transport system, other means of communication, drainage and water supply systems, and housing.

He said Britain was looking tatty, run down and in need of a clean-up. The sewerage system was deteriorating and must be dealt with urgently if collapses were to be avoided. The cost of maintaining the road system now took one quarter of the total road budget compared with about

one tenth in the mid-1970s and that was a frightening increase. Most of the rail structure was built in the 19th century and the Government was squandering its investment budget.

The failure to a coherent transport policy and achieve the right balance between road and rail was one of the tragedies of post-war Britain.

The Government had a dismal record on housing which was an essential part of the infrastructure. The relationship between local authorities and Government had never been so insecure or lacking in confidence. Local authorities were inhibited from expanding their building programmes under this Government because they were afraid their finances would be cut.

It was essential to have a coordinated plan to improve the infrastructure. Real economic and industrial revival depended on that. A recovery should be provided by a measured and sustained growth in construction activity. Planned investment in the basic services was both reasonable and necessary. He did not believe it would be dangerously inflationary if it was properly planned.

The Prime Minister need not make a U-turn, only a slight veering towards common sense. The Government must help rebuild Britain again.

Lord Evers (Lab) said it was quality and not quantity that was important and Britain should have an infrastructure second to none.

The sewerage system, for instance, was pioneered by Britain in

the 19th century and it was a source of pride that it was still in use today.

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the 19th century and it was a source of pride that it was still in use today.

Victorian times, but it was now way behind the times.

There were many ways in which the private sector would be interested in supporting public sector investment. The Government should take a more creative approach to the problem of providing the necessary funds to improve the essential quality of British infrastructure.

Lord Nugent of Guildford (C) said the debate was a siren song, but the total cost of doing what was suggested on any significant scale was enormous. Experience tells us that this expenditure does not work.

It should be possible to set up large scale programmes to carry out all these desirable improvements and it was a serious criticism of the Government that it had not done so. It should be possible to find a way of mounting a large scale programme of public work which was not self-defeating.

Lady White (Lab) said she would like to know if the Government had done anything to decelerate the decline since *The Times* reported on "crumbling Britain" nearly two years ago.

Many universities were finding it difficult to maintain their crumbling structures. For instance, Imperial College had great pieces of wall falling off some higher buildings.

Lord Sheffield (Ind) said anybody who walked to work had a constant reminder of the deterioration of the infrastructure as they tripped over the inequalities in the London pavements. Only sheer luck had brought him to his place today, having avoided a devastating fall from such a cause.

There were no adequate maps of the underground sewerage system but it was estimated to be 130 miles long, with 15 per cent of it built over 100 years ago. Estimates suggested that £310m a year needed to be spent just to keep the system in its present state.

In America, toll roads financed much of the necessary road resurfacing but he was sure attempts to introduce a similar system in Britain would meet many objections. Such a negative attitude was not helpful.

Lord Elystan-Morgan (Lab) said for too long there had been a tendency to take the infrastructure for granted. People seemed to say as the system had functioned tolerable well for a long time, they could therefore suppose they would probably trundle on in a reasonably efficient way for some decades to come. Such complacency had been totally invalidated.

The roads, railways and sewers, which were the very sinews of Britain's economic and social life, had developed piecemeal and in a haphazard way in the past 150 years. Even where planning had taken place, it was likely that the targets aimed at were now unrealistic for the uses being made of those services today.

Rate capping Bill

The Rates Bill, which introduces the system of rate capping and compels local authorities to consult industrial and commercial ratepayers on their budget and rating proposals, was read a second time on Tuesday night by 346 votes to 247 - Government majority, 99.

The Rates Bill, which introduces the system of rate capping and comp

Bonn minister fails to appease critics over general's sacking

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

Herr Manfred Wörner, the Defence Minister, dismissed General Gunter Kiesling, the West German Deputy Commander of Nato, because he no longer had trust in him, he told a crucial meeting of the all-party parliamentary defence committee yesterday.

The embattled minister said the general's alleged homosexuality and visits to homosexual bars in Cologne were not in themselves the reasons for his enforced retirement in December. But because of the particular milieu and the criminal elements associated with it, he had become a security risk, and the security of the Federal Republic came above any personal interests of those concerned. He had no choice therefore but to dismiss him.

His keenly awaited half-hour statement fell far short of the comprehensive explanation many politicians, especially the Social Democratic opposition, has been demanding. SPD members said Herr Wörner had not produced any proofs but only hinted at the grounds for his actions.

The Cabinet yesterday discussed once more the affair, which Chancellor Kohl insisted had to be cleared up once and for all, and again in which they insisted that it was not up to the Ministry of Defence to decide whether a general had any

particular inclination, but only whether he was a security risk. The Ministry of Defence was not a court, nor was the general being accused of anything.

In his 14-page statement, Herr Wörner spoke of his "difficult and bitter decision," which was all the harder as it concerned a person he had known for a long time. He said he had never himself raised the issue of homosexuality, but on the contrary had tried to avoid damage to the general's reputation.

Outlining the sequence of events, Herr Wörner said military intelligence had first been tipped off about the general on July 27 last year and had ordered an investigation. Herr Wörner had been informed on September 14 that General Kiesling had been seen in two bars, and the following day he had confronted him with the evidence.

The general, Herr Wörner continued, had denied any homosexual contacts and gave his word of honour. He then refused charges about visiting the bars but without being specific. He later told the General-Inspector of the Bundeswehr that he had once admitted everything in a difficult situation in the past, and would never repeat this mistake.

Herr Wörner said he had agreed with General Kiesling on September 19 that he would report sick, and leave his post at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe. But the ministry was later informed that the general had been seen in public and also in uniform, which did not tally with official reports of sickness. He had warned him about this on the telephone on October 25. The Military Intelligence Service had then urgently called for a removal of security clearance.

Hinting that General Kiesling had also been in contact with the homosexual scene in Berlin, Herr Wörner said that he had asked for a special identity card with a false name for his trips to Berlin, which he was given in July 1982, and which was later taken away again.

Such a pass could only be given for intelligence purposes, and the general's further applications for this had been turned down because he could not prove he needed it on business. Herr Wörner called the application "unusual".

Herr Wörner said he had tried to spare West Germany, its Army and its allies this "spectacle", which had begun with the first press reports in January. But he believed he could not have acted otherwise.

Kyprianou spells out his Cyprus solution

By Edward Mortimer

"This is the time for an overall solution" of the Cyprus problem, according to President Kyprianou of Cyprus, who saw Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, at Number Ten yesterday. He explained to the Prime Minister "at length and in detail" the framework for an overall solution which he submitted to the United Nations Secretary-General, Senor Javier Pérez de Cuellar.

The contents of this "framework" have not been made public, but Señor Pérez de Cuellar is understood to have had preliminary discussions on them both with President Evren of Turkey and with Rauf Denktaş, the Turkish Cypriot leader, in separate meetings in Casablanca on Tuesday. All three men were there for the opening of the Islamic summit.

Mr Kyprianou told *The Times* yesterday, however, that the document contains two important innovations in the Greek Cypriot position: "We indicate the maximum on the territorial aspect we can go, which we never did in the past, and we indicate quite clearly that we are ready to agree to much more extensive powers for the local governments, for the two administrations."

The Turkish Cypriots, who declared their own republic in the north of the island last November, have long argued



Mrs Thatcher with Mr Kyprianou outside Number 10

for a federal solution giving maximum autonomy to the two separate communities, each in its own region, with the central government enjoying only minimal powers.

The Greek Cypriot position has been that there should be a strong federal government to ensure the unity of the island and that the Turkish Cypriots

should have a region corresponding more closely to their proportion of the population (18 per cent).

Mr Kyprianou confirmed yesterday that he could not meet Mr Denktaş so long as the latter styled himself President of the "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus" since this would imply recognition.

Salvadorean rebels give Reagan choice

From John Carlin, Mexico City

Salvadorean rebels leaders have said here that President Reagan faces two alternatives in 1984: to send the Marines into El Salvador or to negotiate for peace.

At a news conference on Tuesday four insurgent representatives said that the past 12 months had seen a dramatic shift in the military balance of power in El Salvador. They believed that plans in Washington for increased military aid to the Salvadorean Government would do little to revive the Army's flagging morale.

"The total collapse of the Army draws nearer every day", Commander Ana Guadalupe Martínez, the chief spokesman of the FMLN, the rebels' military wing, stated.

The rebels supplied journalists with figures which, if correct, explain the Salvadorean Army's low spirits.

The insurgents killed or wounded 7,282 soldiers in 1983, a figure which tallies roughly with that provided by the Salvadorean Defence Ministry. Further the rebels claim they

took 1,757 prisoners-of-war who were allegedly set free unharmed; and captured 3,511 rifles from the Army.

According to the rebels, the recent destruction of a key bridge in eastern El Salvador and the destruction of an important army base have put the Salvadorean military on the defensive.

Commander Martínez said only one bridge was preventing the rebels from controlling the whole eastern third of the country.

The rebel leaders did not deny that they proposed to sabotage presidential elections scheduled for March 25 but asserted that their current military momentum would be speeded up during the elections will allow the guerrillas space to operate freely in the country-side," said Señor Zamora, a leader of the insurgent FDR movement's political wing.

As to Washington's much publicized recent attempt to check the activities of El Salvador's right-wing death squads, Señor Zamora said: "window dressing."

Oslo to help Sandinistas

From Martha Honey, San Jose, Costa Rica

Norway is likely to begin substantial economic assistance to Nicaragua after a study tour to Mexico, Nicaragua and Costa Rica by a dozen MPs.

The aid package, which is likely to total about £36m annually, would represent the first direct Norwegian assistance to any Latin American country.

Mr Arne Skauge, a senior Conservative Party official who initially opposed Norwegian aid to Nicaragua, said in an interview here that he now believed very strongly that Managua was providing social benefits to its people.

French police chief sacked over hijack

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Last week's hijacking by French farmers of two British lorry drivers has prompted President Mitterrand to issue a solemn warning against all violations of public order and has led to the dismissal of the prefect in the department where the hijacking took place.

Speaking at yesterday's Cabinet meeting, Mitterrand said: "The state will not tolerate intertemperate behaviour from anyone. I will not accept that such behaviour take place without consequences, and when the law itself is called into question, severe action must be taken."

Although the President did not refer to any specific situation, M. Max Gallo, the government spokesman, told reporters afterwards that M. Mitterrand was referring to violations of public order, such as kidnapping foreign citizens or holding an armed demonstration.

M. Gallo's second reference was to the demonstration in Corsica on Saturday organized by the outlawed FLNC Corsican separatist movement, on the occasion of the funeral of one of their members who blew himself up with his own bomb. A "guard of honour", composed of six hooded FLNC militants, fired an IRA-style over the coffin at the graveside as the police looked on impotently.

M. Gallo also announced, without comment, the Cabinet's decision to replace M. Pierre North as prefect for the Orne department in Normandy, where the two British lorries carrying British lamb were hijacked by French farmers a week ago.



M. Mitterrand: "Severe action must be taken"

The EEC presidency

France hints British budget not a priority

From Ian Murray, Strasbourg

In a speech heavy with European idealism M. Claude Cheysson, the French Foreign Minister, yesterday spelled out to the European Parliament in Strasbourg the hopes and ambitions of France as it assumes the presidency of the EEC's Council of Ministers for the next six months.

The speech was remarkable more for what it did not say than for what it did. The British budget problem was dealt with in just 12 lines of the 27-page text and those lines contained the suggestion, working to Britain, that France does not regard it as essential to find a permanent solution.

"There is a problem and it must be dealt with, at least for a certain period," he said. "An agreement on guidelines appears to be emerging, but the positions of members states are still far apart. The presidency and the Commission will endeavour, as is their duty, to bring the positions together and find a compromise."

It is the phrase "at least for a certain period", slipped into the speech almost casually, which indicates that France is still not convinced of the need for a solution which lasts as long as the problem and which Britain insists must be found.

M. Cheysson spent more time talking about the other subject facing the Community under the French presidency: that of negotiating the membership of Spain and Portugal.

He complained that "sometimes subsidiary and often Byzantine internal disputes" had meant that the EEC had been unable to defend its interests against its principal trading partners.

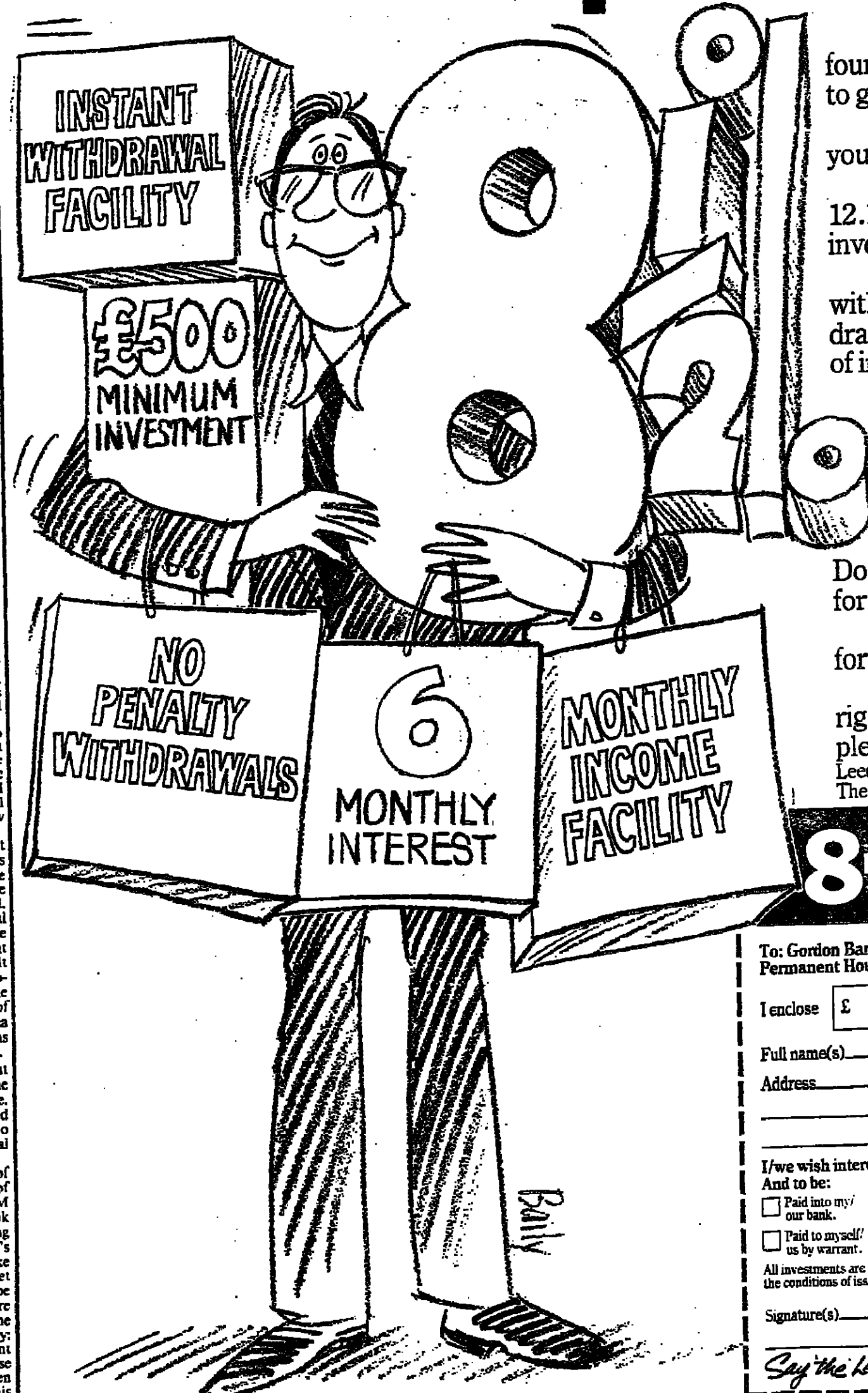
"We are now compelled to accept that Europe does not today occupy at either the political or economic level the place which could and should belong to it on the international scene. Worse still, in the last few years, we have lost ground."

But his speech was not specific on how France means to organize matters to resolve the problems. Reform of the agricultural policy, he said, must take account of "social realities"; in other words, the living standards of peasant farmers had to be protected. It would be "necessary" to introduce taxes linked to both production and import of agricultural products - an idea which the United States has said could provoke a trade war.

M. Cheysson pointed out that there were no arguments in the Community about the future. Everyone was agreed on the need for a European dimension to face up to the present industrial revolution.

Sir Henry Plumb, leader of the Conservative group of MEPs was "encouraged" by M. Cheysson's speech. But he took the opportunity of ramming home in the debate Britain's case that agriculture must take up a smaller share of the budget and that Britain must only be asked to pay a "modest" share of the cost of running the Community. He added wearily: "This fact will not prevent certain members in this house from misrepresenting and then criticizing our views in this matter."

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'The Day After' will be shown in Poland

From Roger Boyes
Warsaw

After a great deal of hesitation and commercial dealing, the Polish authorities have decided to show the film *The Day After* on television. It will be its first showing in a communist country.

The Polish press said yesterday that the two-hour film, depicting the devastation of a nuclear exchange between the superpowers, would be shown on January 26. It was "based on one of the possible options of development in the international situation". The film has many sensitive scenes for a socialist audience, including the announcement that the East German Army had mutinied.

Negotiations with the American Broadcasting Corporation began last November, with the US side asking for \$6,000 (about £4,300), a small sum by Western standards but much larger than Polish television usually pays for films.

This was a stabilising block, and there was some unhappiness, too, that the Americans should insist on monitoring the translated transcript to ensure that there were no cuts.

In the first phase of negotiations, the film was shown privately to various audiences including members of the Polish general staff, members of the Government including Mr Stefan Olszowski, the Foreign Minister and party officials.

The talks came to a halt before Christmas - the Polish side insists that this was not because of a desire to censor the film - but were resumed shortly afterwards.

"Both sides really wanted the deal to go ahead", one person close to the negotiations said. "ABC wanted it to be shown in a communist country to show that the nuclear issue could be raised there, too, and the Poles wanted to broadcast it. It was just a matter of striking the correct financial agreement."

Underground raids: Nine people were arrested in raids on underground printing centres and thousands of copies of illegal publications were seized, the official press said yesterday (Reuters reports).

Three men and two women were held in Szczecin after police uncovered a printing shop and two press distribution centres run by Solidarity. In Lodz, four people were arrested and copies of a publication and printing equipment were seized.

The Stockholm summit: Russia says slide to abyss can be stopped



Face to face: Mr Andrei Gromyko, left, confronts Mr George Shultz across a table at the Soviet Embassy in Stockholm

Force of Gromyko attack on US shocks delegates

From Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent, Stockholm

By starting the deployment of cruise and Pershing 2 nuclear missiles in Western Europe, the United States had made further negotiations pointless, Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, warned the foreign ministers of 35 nations here yesterday at the Conference on Disarmament in Europe. The blame for disrupting the East-West dialogue lay with Washington.

"A perilous slide towards the abyss can be arrested provided that the states participating in this forum adopt a responsible approach. Should the United States and other Nato countries display readiness to return to the situation that existed before the commencement of the deployment of US medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe, the Soviet Union will be prepared to do likewise."

But as even Mr Gromyko cannot believe that there is much chance of the Americans withdrawing the missiles they have only just based in Europe, in return for an agreement with Moscow of the kind which they have already rejected, his speech must be seen as a blow to those who have been hoping for an early resumption of the Geneva arms talks.

It was a speech which called for an end to present tension and for the pursuance of peaceful policies, as did those

made by President Reagan in Washington and by Mr George Shultz, the American Secretary of State, here in Stockholm on Tuesday. But it was also full of rhetoric directed against the present US Administration with a force which surprised even the most hard-headed diplomats.

The present US Administration is thinking in terms of war and is acting accordingly. New missiles, bombers and aircraft are being churned out in some kind of pathological obsession. New means of mass destruction are being experimented with.

"The land of Lebanon is trampled by the soldier's boot of some of those states whose representatives are seated in this hall. A US naval armada is shelling Lebanese cities at point-blank range. The US war machine is sowing death and destruction there."

"The current statements by the US Administration as to its readiness for negotiations against the background of the continuing deployment of missiles are a verbal cover-up for its policies", Mr Gromyko said in an obvious reference to President Reagan's own Washington address.

of the Soviet Union's United Nations initiative "resolutely condemning nuclear war".

He called for the Stockholm conference to support such other Soviet "confidence building measures" as a non-aggression pact and an agreement on a nuclear weapons freeze, nuclear-free zones and an agreement on "no first use" of nuclear weapons: all initiatives largely expected by the West and which are unlikely to attract much enthusiasm from Nato delegates.

But he also went on to outline a number of practical confidence building measures which would be supported by the Russians and which sounded not unlike those contemplated by the West.

He was seeking to extend those measures already agreed in Helsinki nine years ago. "For example the prior notification of major military manoeuvres could be further developed. Agreement to limit the scale of such manoeuvres to a certain numerical strength of the forces engaged would also be quite urgent."

But Mr Gromyko added this warning: "Should anyone think of using this conference in a bid to gain unilateral advantage of any kind this would encounter vigorous opposition on our part."

Jordan opts for the hard line

From Christopher Walker
Amman

The new Jordanian Government, appointed last week by King Hussein, has ruled out any discussion of principles involved in the Reagan peace plan until Washington secures a freeze on Israeli settlements in the West Bank and a complete Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon.

This stance - expected to facilitate negotiations due this month between the King and Mr Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organization leader - was spelt out yesterday at the first press conference by the new Government. It was given by Mrs Laila Sharaf, the first and only woman Information Minister in the Arab world.

She accused the United States of breaking its promise that the Israeli forces and withdrawal from Lebanon would be in exchange for Jordanian willingness to discuss the terms outlined by Mr Reagan in September, 1982. These involved a key role for Jordan.

"We would like to make it clear that the ball is in the court of the Americans and the Israelis and not in ours. Jordan was accused of not fulfilling its part of the Reagan plan, when it was really the United States that did not carry out the preliminary conditions to move forward."

Jordan would insist on the pre-conditions being fulfilled before the plan would be considered again in Amman. Even then, there would not be automatic acceptance. "The Reagan plan was not meant to be accepted; it was meant to be the framework of discussions."

Outlining the likely agenda for the Hussein-Arafat talks, the minister said they would concentrate on allocating the "responsibility and authority" of Jordan and the PLO in the future of the peace process.

In a related development, the revived Jordanian Parliament yesterday appointed seven new deputies from the occupied West Bank, six to replace members who have died since 1974 and the seventh to succeed the Speaker, who has moved to the Senate.

ROME - Italy has begun to reduce its contingent to the multinational force in Lebanon, a Defence Ministry spokesman said. This confirmed Italian press and radio reports that the 622-man "Cernaia" battalion of Bersaglieri infantrymen, which began returning to Italy on Tuesday would not be replaced. This would leave the Italian contingent at around 1,500 men, the spokesman said.

General quits top West Bank post

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv

Brigadier Shlomo Ilyia, head of the Israeli civil administration in the occupied West Bank, resigned on Tuesday in connection with a military police investigation into allegations of corruption, the Defence Ministry announced.

A statement said the general had asked to be relieved of his duties and the Defence Minister and the Chief of Staff had accepted his resignation.

The allegations were that he had a woman soldier transferred from her unit to his headquarters contrary to procedures and allowed her to be absent from duty for several weeks. He was also said to have used army property for non-military purposes, employed a local resident to carry out work in his home for payment and bought produce from West Bank residents contrary to standing orders.

The newspaper *Haaretz* reported that security officials who had seen the investigations

file claimed that by those standards, half the officers in the Israeli Army should be court-martialed. They said it was the norm in the West Bank to buy fruits and vegetables from local vendors, to use official cars privately and to transfer staff from one unit to another.

The paper's West Bank correspondent said the repairs to his home had been made during Brigadier Ilyia's absence abroad without his knowledge. Civil administration officials said the Brigadier, who took over the office in November, 1982, had made enemies as he had shifted from open support of the "village leagues" and sought dialogue with various elements of the local population.

Close call: Mr Yitzhak Shamir's coalition yesterday lost a Knesset vote on a motion for debate and then averted a second defeat by discreetly voting with the opposition.

Japan hails US video ruling as victory

Tokyo (Reuters) - Japan's Sony Corporation hailed as an important victory for consumers a US Supreme Court ruling that home video taping of television programmes does not break the law.

Universal City Studio Inc and Walt Disney Productions had sued Sony and other video equipment makers. Of the 18 million recorders produced by Japan last year, 13 million were exported to the US and West Europe.

The court's 5-4 decision is likely to set off an intensive lobbying battle in Congress between the home video taping industry and Hollywood. This is just the opening shot, said Mr Jack Valenti, president of the Motion Picture Association of America.

Miners trapped

Tokyo (Reuters) - Nearly 100 miners were trapped or missing after a fire broke out in Japan's largest coal mine 600ft under the sea off the southern island of Kyushu. Radio contact was made.

Grenoble scare

Grenoble (AP) - An explosion in an underground gas pipeline outside Grenoble under the A48 autoroute woke the population and caused a panic because many thought it was a nuclear research centre. Officials blamed it on heavy lorries. Gas was cut from the city for 48 hours.

Soviet sacking

Moscow (Reuters) - Three days after a report saying the airline industry needed an overhaul, the dismissal of Mr Aleksandr Nazarov, First Deputy Aviation Minister, was announced. He had held his post for four years.

32 executed

Peking (AFP) - Thirty-two men were executed in Peking yesterday bringing to 59 the number of criminals executed in the Chinese capital this year. Posters said they were guilty of rape, murder or robbery.

Miles holds on

Amsterdam (Reuters) - Tony Miles (Britain) and Viktor Korchnoi (Switzerland) remained in the lead with three points after four rounds of the Hoogevoort international chess tournament, drawing with Emilio Torre (Philippines) and Hubert Hubner (West Germany) respectively. Half a point behind was Aleksandr Belavskiy who also drew with fellow Soviet countryman Vladimir Tukmakov.

Iran poll

Tehran (Reuters) - Elections to Iran's 270-seat Parliament will be held at the end of February or the beginning of March, the Government of Tehran, Mr Mohammad Memarsadeh, announced.

Hashish haul

Amsterdam (AP) - Police seized 9,000lb of hashish worth \$5.5m hidden in 40 barrels stored in a derelict warehouse and a garage. Five Dutch nationals were arrested.

Uruguay stops

Montevideo (Reuters) - Public transport stopped and shops closed in Uruguay in the first general strike called by trade unions in 10 years of military rule. Police and troops patrolled the centre of Montevideo. The unions want better pay, an amnesty for political prisoners and bans lifted on political parties.

Pimps swoop

Munich (AP) - Police arrested 13 people in city-wide raids to combat violence among rival gangs of pimps. The rival gangs of pimps, the so-called "gangs of pimps", were in which mobile bordellos in trailers had been set on fire.

Jumbo flight

Delhi (Reuters) - An Indian Air Force helicopter carrying Mr Gagan Apani, Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh state, and other officials from a village surrounded by a rampaging herd of wild elephants.

Britain censures Greece for anti-missile appeal

From Mario Modiano, Athens

A joint appeal by Greece and Romania against the deployment of nuclear missiles in Europe has brought an angry protest from Britain.

The Greek Ambassador in London was told recently by the Foreign Office of its extreme annoyance that Greece had failed to consult Britain before joining such an unorthodox venture on a matter of direct concern to the British people.

The appeal was in a letter signed by President Ceausescu of Romania and Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister, and addressed to

President Reagan and President Andropov. Britain first heard of it from Bucharest, not Athens.

Meanwhile, the Balkan conference called by Greece to discuss the creation of a nuclear-free zone ended yesterday, two days ahead of schedule. It will meet again in Athens on February 13.

The decision to postpone the meeting was taken by Mr Papandreu after receiving a message from Mr Ceausescu arguing that a Balkan meeting without Turkey made nonsense of the plan for a nuclear-free zone.

Manned space station project 'imminent'

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

President Reagan is expected to announce plans next week to build a manned space station to orbit the Earth with permanent, rotating crews of astronauts, according to a press report here.

The *Washington Post* quoted unnamed White House officials as saying that the President would make the proposal in his state of the union address next week. There was no immediate comment on the story by White House and Pentagon spokesmen.

The report said that according to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration the initial funding for the space station that would be orbiting in 1991 or 1992 could amount to \$100m (£70m) in the 1985 budget. But the funding would

increase rapidly over the subsequent few years.

The space station would be made of a series of linked modules carried into space by the shuttle. It would house up to eight men and women.

Nasa wants the space station as a science laboratory, astronomical observatory, space manufacturing centre, serving facility for spacecraft and an assembly site for larger orbiting structures.

The newspaper said that the estimated \$8bn to \$20bn cost of the station had provoked intense opposition in the Administration and among scientists. The Defence Department, the Central Intelligence Agency and some others either oppose construction of the station or are neutral.

Hope for stroke victims

St Petersburg, Florida (AP) -

A new drug for treatment of strokes has produced dramatic reversal of paralysis and other damage in some people who received it within 24 hours of the attack, a researcher says.

A scientifically controlled study of the drug, called

prostacyclin, has begun only recently, but in early trials with eight patients, four showed improvement, according to Dr Frank Yatsu of the University of Texas Health Science Centre. Prostacyclin, discovered in 1976, earned its discoverers the Nobel prize.

Gairy counting on VIP welcome in Grenada

New York (NYT) - Sir Eric Gairy, who was deposed as Prime Minister of Grenada in 1979, said this week that if his right wing Grenada United Labour Party won the coming elections, it would urge the United States and Britain to maintain a military presence on the island.

Sir Eric, in a telephone interview from Falls Church, Virginia, discussed plans to return to Grenada on Saturday to become heavily involved in politics. But he said he would personally not run in the elections.

He expected that on his return he would "be a sign of respect" be escorted from Grenada airport by US troops.

Describing the invasion as a rescue mission that was the answer to a lot of prayers, Sir Eric said he had been urging a US presence on the island consistently for the past 18 years.

He would like to see the disputed Cuban-built airport at Point Salines completed.

Obote sets up committee on Asians' claims

From Charles Harrison
Nairobi

President Obote of Uganda has appointed a committee to recommend what action should be taken on several thousand applications from Asians and others for the return of businesses and other property seized from them when they were expelled from Uganda by President Idi Amin in 1972.

The formation of the new committee, headed by the Rehabilitation Minister Mr Moses Apiliga, follows an invitation to Asians a year ago to apply for the return of their property, or for compensation. There are no hopes here that the committee will complete its work quickly. It is likely to take months to assess the competing claims of absentee Asians.

Kidnapped protesters found safe

From Donovan Moldrich
Colombo

Nine Tamil students kidnapped on Monday while on hunger strike in Jaffna, northern Sri Lanka, have been found at friends' home and at nursing homes to which they had been taken by their abductors.

The five men and four women were demanding admission to northern universities of students who fled the south during last year's anti-Tamil violence.

They became involved in a dispute between two groups of terrorists. Those who objected to the hunger strike and the hunger strikers to risk their lives while peace talks were in progress in Colombo between the Government and opposition parties and representatives of the Tamil United Liberation Front.

A rival group, which favoured continuation of the fast, has threatened action against the kidnappers.

The President has postponed parliamentary elections in 11 constituencies in the north and one in the north-central province under provisions of the state of emergency. The 11 vacancies arose when members of the Tamil United Liberation Front forfeited their seats by refusing to take an oath disavowing separatism.

Brazil fears drought will kill millions

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

In Brazil's 10 north-eastern provinces the mortality rate among the 35 million population is now 20 to 25 per cent due to food and water shortages caused by five years of drought, according to Mr Gerhard Dohms, delegate of the League of Red Cross Societies.

"If rains do not come this month or next people will be dying like flies," he said. "The big reservoirs are nearly empty."

Rats and lizards were being hunted as food, people were eating cactus to lessen the hunger pangs and women would walk more than 10 miles to fetch water from a lorry which might be there once a week.

Mr Dohms, Brazilian-born and a former West German ambassador in the country, thought the Government had been "too shy to appeal" for the international aid essential to alleviate the situation.

Quick-thinking official averts rail disaster

From Harry Debelius
Madrid

A protest in north-west Spain might have ended in a disaster, but for a quick-thinking railway official.

About 500 shipyard workers occupied the station at Vigo on Thursday night in protest against government policy in the shipbuilding industry. Most sat on the rails, only minutes before the expected arrival of an express train, powered by an overhead electricity cable.

The stationmaster failed to dissuade the protesters and phoned the next station down the line, Redondela, to ask the stationmaster to hold the express, but it had already left.

The Vigo stationmaster then advised the district's chief railway engineer, who cut off the electric current. When the train driver realized he had no power, he stopped the train shortly before reaching Vigo.

MPs hear Flick case denial

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

of news magazines that had written about the affair.

Herr Friderichs is the first of 73 witnesses who have been called by the committee. The list, which is a roll call of West Germany's senior politicians, also includes Chancellor Kohl, his predecessor, Herr Helmut Schmidt, and Herr Franz Josef Strauss, the Prime Minister of Bavaria.

The hearings by the 11-man committee are expected to last many months with no fixed date for a final report. The committee will consider some 30,000 pages of written evidence.

The committee was established as a result of the scandal and publicity surrounding the way all political parties had been receiving large undeclared sums of money from Flick.

It does not replace the judicial investigations into the affair, nor will it play any role in the court proceedings that

may open soon against two Flick managers, Herr Friderichs and his successor, Otto Graf Lambsdorff, and a minister from the North-Rhine-Westphalian government.

Count Lambsdorff will be one of the main witnesses in the hearings and the committee will, like the courts, have to decide whether the former party treasurer of the FDP acted improperly in accepting DM135,000 between 1977 and 1980.

Count Lambsdorff has firmly denied the charge of bribe-taking made by the Bonn Prosecutor, and resisted pressure to resign. Chancellor Kohl, however, has said he expected the Economics Minister to go if and when the matter comes to trial.

The laws on Party financing have recently - and hurriedly - been changed to prevent a recurrence of the Flick payments impossible.

1997

Taking the long way home

The Times Profile Jean-Luc Godard

It is about 50 kilometres from Geneva to Lausanne. Every five or 10 kilometres there is a small town with a railway station, a hotel and sometimes a little port on the Lac du Léman. This is Switzerland, everything clean and ordered with the Jura mountains behind you and the Alps across the lake. The predominant feeling is of the country of a rural life little touched by twentieth-century development.

But you can look at it another way. See the motorway that connects Geneva to Lausanne as a Los Angeles throughway and the whole area as an extended city interrupted by cultivated fields instead of canyons. From this perspective the villages and picturesque fields fade to reveal the twin facets of the international order that underpin Swiss prosperity and cleanliness: on the one hand the United Nations and its associated institutions, on the other banks.

It is in this paradoxical setting - idyll of rural life and centre of international capital - that one can find Jean-Luc Godard. The most influential film-maker of his generation now lives and works in the tiny Swiss town of Rolle. He has two flats in a small, modern apartment block just off the main street, one for his equipment and one for himself. They make up what he calls his "factory". A third flat in the block is occupied by Anne-Marie Miéville, his collaborator of the past 19 years, of whom he says: "Once we were together in life and work, now we are together in work". He is due to start shooting a new movie, *Hail, Mary*, this month.

If Godard is the most influential film-maker of his generation, the influence has been largely on film-makers rather than on film-goers. If you were to talk of Godard to Coppola or Lucas in Hollywood, to Bertolucci or Straub in Europe, to a host of Third-World directors, then you might be confident of an animated, informed conversation. But to many film-goers, Godard is hardly more than a name, associated above all with those astonishing years of the French cinema in the late 1950s.

This situation is very largely of Godard's own making. It is now over 15 years ago, in 1968, that Godard repudiated the commercial cinema and, for more than 10 years, with one exception, made no films for commercial circuits. He remained as prolific as ever but his experiments in sound and image were conducted first in a series of difficult, hard-to-enjoy films which restricted themselves almost entirely to questions of the relations between politics and aesthetics; more recently the experiments were in series of television programmes that even French viewers found difficult.

In 1980, however, Godard returned to the commercial circuits, a return confirmed in September when *First Name Carmen* won the best film and cinematography prizes at the Venice Film Festival. It opens next Thursday at the Chelsea and Camden cinemas.

One of Godard's earliest critics on film was an elliptical and dense consideration on montage. Conventional narrative cinema tends to

eschew montage, each image finding its meaning in relation to an evident progression of the story.

For Godard, no image has an evident meaning and his entire work can be seen as an extension of the principles of montage to every aspect of the film-making process. Watching a Godard movie is hard work - work on sound and image and the relation between them. For some such work is wildly exhilarating - a release from the nauseating repetition of stereotyped images; for others, it is merely boring.

Disconcertingly, montage is also Godard's principle of conversation. It when we returned to his flat, he reluctantly submitted to a set of linear questions about his life and work, there was no such stable and agreed structure over lunch. A discussion about the relation between cinema and video in which Godard foresaw no cinemas outside museums in 30 years - "but it doesn't bother me, I'll be dead then" - broke its boundaries when Godard asked how many hours a starving African could survive watching videos.

A conversation at a lunch table is just as much a process of making a film as making a film is part of the process of his life. When one checks with him that his first full-length feature, *Breathless*, was shot in 1959 he concurs, but insists that he had been making movies before that. For him the criticism he published in *Cahiers du Cinema* or the publicity he did for Fox in the mid-1950s was just as much making movies as actually shooting with film for shorts or features.

Cahiers du Cinema, probably the most intellectually influential western magazine of the postwar period, was the product of a group of young friends - Godard, Rivette, Truffaut - who hung around the cine clubs of Paris in 1949 and 1950 (Godard was ostensibly registered at the Sorbonne to study anthropology) - and the older film critic, André Bazin.

Cahiers permanently altered the way in which we look at films, emphasizing the role of the director and creating a canon of Hollywood film-makers

Godard now disclaims any political beliefs

which survives pretty well unchanged to this day. Godard, himself, now believes that the emphasis on the director has gone too far and that more attention should be paid to other roles, particularly that of the producer.

If the 1950s were spent discussing movies, the 1960s were spent making them. *Breathless* - a story, adapted from a Truffaut script, of a petty gangster (Jean-Paul Belmondo) on the run and his doomed love affair with a young American (Jean Seberg) - was an instant critical and commercial success on its release in 1960.

For the next eight years, Godard made at least two films a year. Most of them concentrated thematically on doomed love affairs, on enigmatic women who inevitably betrayed the men they attracted. Anna Karina, his



wife briefly during this period, was the female lead in most of these films. But this theme became increasingly subordinated to a political investigation of film. Godard took Hollywood forms like the musical or the Western or the war film and set them in the landscape of contemporary Paris - *Une Femme est Une Femme*, *Bande à Part*, *Les Carabiniers*.

In the late 1960s Godard encountered young Maoists who argued that the forms of distribution of the commercial cinema meant that no audience could ever think for itself. Film-makers had to address images to specific audiences in specific situations if they were to avoid using the image to dominate the spectator's perception.

As *British Sounds*, made in 1969, put it "If a million prints are made of a Marxist-Leninist film it becomes *Gone with the Wind* - there can be no international or national cinema, simply films made by small groups for small groups." Godard brilliantly portrayed much of the style of this Maoist argument in *La Chinoise* (1967). The following year he broke from the commercial cinema and, together with Jean-Pierre Gorin, formed the Dziga-Vertov group, named after the Soviet film-maker. A string of Marxist-Leninist films followed which would be made easily available to a British audience for the first time when

Channel 4 shows them over the next two years.

Just as in 1968 Godard did not want to discuss his earlier films, he now disclaims any political beliefs.

The culmination of these political experiments was to be a film on the Palestinian revolution entitled *Until Victory*. The defeat of the Palestinians in Jordan brought this project to an end and two years later Godard broke with Gorin, politics and Paris. He moved, first to Grenoble and then to Rolle where, with Anne-Marie Miéville, he produced a series of films and videos, almost exclusively financed by French television, which investigated the relations between the personal and the political.

The extraordinarily moving investigations of contemporary life which he undertook for French television may ultimately prove to be among his finest work but it was judged too difficult by the controllers of French television, who programmed them at hours that ensured a minimal audience.

The final move back to Rolle was, in many ways, a homecoming for Godard. Though born in Paris in 1930, his family had moved to Switzerland and Godard had been brought up in the area. As the work from French television dried up, it also proved to be a return to the cinema.

The first two results of this dual



Jean-Paul Belmondo in *Breathless*

1960 *A Bout de Souffle*
1961 *Une Femme est Une Femme*
1962 *Vivre Sa Vie*
1963 *Le Petit Soldat*
1963 *Les Carabiniers*
1963 *La Muppi*
1964 *Bande à Part*
1964 *Une Femme Marée*
1965 *Alpha*
1966 *Pierrot Le Fou*
1966 *Masculin, Féminin*
1966 *Made in USA*
1966 *Deux ou Trois Choses que Je Sais D'Elle*
1967 *La Chinoise*
1967 *Weekend*
1969 *British Sounds*
1972 *Tout va Bien*
1975 *Id et Alibi*
1975 *Numero Deux*
1976 *Comment Ça Va*
1980 *Slow Motion*
1981 *Passion*
1983 *Prénom Carmen*



Martine Drouot, Jacques Bonafant in *Carmen*

homecoming were *Slow Motion* (1980) and *Passion* (1981). Painting and music dominate these films and if there is also the story of love, usually doomed, and of a movie being made, equally doomed, these stories have little interest in themselves.

Passion practically dispensed with plot altogether, a pure montage. Its subsequent commercial failure forced Godard and Miéville to consider an already existing story for adaptation. *Carmen* was decided on, but their film is anything but a faithful rendition of Bizet's opera. If the skeleton of the story can be discerned in Godard's account of Carmen and Joseph, the music is by Beethoven and Tom Waits and the story of Carmen and her lovers is set in a contemporary France in which a criminal gang plan a kidnapping under subterfuge of making a film. As part of the subterfuge, Carmen ropes in her uncle, played by Godard, a one-time famous director now rejected by the movie industry.

The film may not be for lovers of purist opera but as Joseph lies slumped over a blank television screen and Tom Waits sings Ruby's Arms, Godard proves once again that he is our greatest contemporary worker in sound and image, a master of montage.

Colin McCabe

Godard's First Name *Carmen* opens at The Chelsea Cinema next Thursday

moreover...
Miles Kingston

Dead right again

The other day Bernard Levin devoted a whole piece to attacking the music of Webern, and a wonderful change it was too from seeing him pat composers on the back. I'm afraid it can't have helped his stock much among the intellectual elite - in fact, I know it didn't, as I overheard a Radio 3 high-up tut-tutting at a party and bewailing poor Bernard's lack of perception. And Peter Heyworth started his *Observer* piece last Sunday with words: "If only to refute Bernard Levin's bizarre notion that those of us who listen to contemporary music do so as an act of penance let me start with the recent recording in this category that has given me the greatest pleasure".

I am quite sure that Bernard Levin can look after himself, but there are times when standing up and being counted is a pleasure as well as a duty, and I would not just stand up and counted; I would like to jump up and down and be counted on Bernard Levin's side. I am not sure I would go as far as the friend of mine who told me, "I believe that Webern was shot in 1945 by American troops in error. It was one of the greatest contributions to culture by the American nation in this century", but I think it may be an excusable lapse.

If you scratch the hostile reaction to Levin's piece, you will find doubts even among the opposition. I later heard that self-same Radio 3 nob whom he sometimes wondered if their preaching on behalf of contemporary music had had any effect. "When I go to a contemporary concert," he said, "no doubt quite of the record," and the audience composed entirely of critics, BBC people, Arts Council staff and other composers, I wonder if we may not be talking to ourselves and no

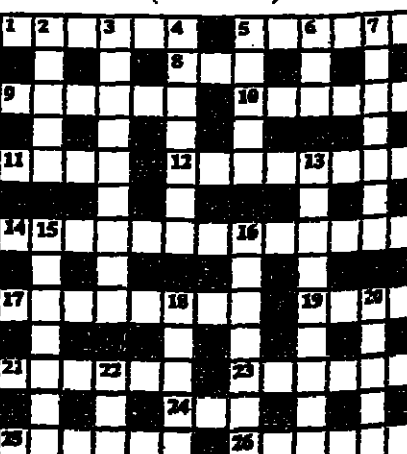
And if Peter Heyworth wanted to emphasize how much pleasure he had got from his chosen record, he used curious language to describe Boulez's music. "Brilliant performance... dazzling score... stately gait... exactly the sharp-edged quality the music calls for..." I do not find here the warm reactions, any of the sensuous enjoyment, that the words *greatest pleasure* suggest. What I find is the usual descriptive vocabulary used by writers on contemporary music to avoid having to confess their lack of emotional involvement. Penance maybe not duty, yes. The fear of being thought philistine, yes. The fervent wish that contemporary composers should play the same role as they used to, yes, and the wish becoming a "fact".

But the fact is that contemporary music awakens almost no chords in us at all. Trapped and driven by the need to be original, experimental and innovative, modern composers have been forced to write music which is mostly in code. Very few of us are tempted to find the key to the code. Ernst Roth, who knew the music scene as well as anyone, wrote that: "New music gives away nothing of its creator save his cleverness and his intellectual powers". Henry Pleasants, in *Serious Music and All That Jazz*, describes chillingly the moment when he realized, having reviewed contemporary music for 20 years, that he had not actually enjoyed anything he had heard in that period. It was as if, on the road to Damascus, a bright light had suddenly gone out for ever.

I once cut out all the reviews for several weeks from all the serious papers, and then analysed them to see if the artists under review were alive or dead. It was an instructive analysis. Writers scored highest, as over 90 per cent of books reviewed are by living authors. Films scored almost as well. Plays were down to 70 per cent or 80 per cent, as Ibsen and Shakespeare are still quite popular. But in the realm of the concert hall the figure was down shockingly to 10 per cent. Of the creators considered worth reviewing by the arts pages, fully 90 per cent were dead and gone, a figure which could not be rivalled by any of the other arts.

The reasons for this are complicated, and I do not think the composers are to blame - they have been driven into an experimental workshop, and quarantined there, by the forces of history. Supporters of contemporary music can argue until they are blue in the face, and laugh at Bernard Levin until they are red in the face, but the sad fact is that very few people will be listening to them.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 252)



ACROSS
1 Confused noise (6)
5 Scattered (8)
8 South Korea (3)
9 Japanese religion
10 Declare (6)
11 Unconfined (4)
12 Ancient Anatolians (8)
14 Games winner (6,7)
17 Pandemonium (4)
19 Compunct (4)
21 Raw recruit (6)
23 Armpit (6)
24 Jocular person (3)
25 Conditions (6)
26 Ineffective man (6)

DOWN
2 Precursor (3)
3 W German assembly (9)
4 Fellow member (7)
5 Apropos (5)
6 Tule (3)
7 Fetus chambered painter (7)
13 Social separation (9)
15 Put right (4,3)
16 Treat humbly (7)
18 Inspects (5)
20 Light purple (5)
22 Soldier's equipment (3)

SOLUTION TO No 251
ACROSS: 1 Pass up 4 Tickle 7 Tub 8 Warworks 9 High 12 Inch 15 Roubin 16 Avesta 17 Wit 19 Ship road 24 Jerry can 25 Slow 26 Steady 27 Ararat
DOWN: 1 Paté 2 Subsequent 3 Pewit 4 Toak 5 Khor 6 Liken 10 Holds 11 Hovert 12 Insanitary 13 Khan 14 Brown 18 Inert 20 Lucky 21 Punct 22 Proa 23 Twit

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Alan Hamilton talks to Russian author Alexander Zinoviev, who would "sell Cuba and buy bread"

Alexander Zinoviev, chubby and bouncy, his arms chopping the air in search of a homely Russian simile about tigers or snakes, thoughts struggling behind large dark eyes to find expression in a foreign tongue, recalls into his chair at the mention of Alexander Solzhenitsyn.

"I am not," declares Zinoviev with heavily accented vigour, "a dissident".

Nevertheless he shares with Solzhenitsyn the fate of having been torn from the roots of his motherland and banished to the misery of western creature comfort. The former distinguished professor of logic at Moscow University incurred the wrath of the Soviet authorities with the publication in 1976 of his satirical novel *The Yawning Heights*. He is visiting London this week from his adopted home in Munich for the English publication of his latest work, *The Reality of Communism*.

It is in the nature of the communist system to punish its own kind more severely than its enemies, says Zinoviev. "The West is a punishment to me. Unlike so many Soviet emigrants who claim to have been victims, I never regarded the Soviet Union as a prison. Yet I have damaged the Soviet system with my books much more than the system has damaged me."

Whether *The Reality of Communism* will cause leading members of the Politburo to denigrate themselves from the upper storeys of the Kremlin is open to doubt, but it will act as a severe depressant to any westerner who cherishes the fond hope that the nature and course of communist society can be changed by pressure from without.

"In its view of the Soviet Union, the West does not take proper account of ideology. They think that the ideology is weak, and that the people do not believe in it. But it is very strong, and influences the behaviour of the people. It is not necessary for the people to believe it, only to accept it, and this they do. Nearly one quarter of the Soviet population depend for their living on a job somewhere in the state machinery."

Zinoviev insists that his latest work is not a debate on whether communism is a good or bad thing,

The gloomy logic of an accidental dissident

but a scientific analysis of the fact that communism has existed, does exist, and will continue to exist until the final global conflict between communism and capitalism, which he regards as inevitable, although not necessarily tomorrow.

He presents communism as a huge self-propelled monolith whose course cannot be altered, least of all by communist political leaders, except over many decades or even centuries. The apparatus is too large, too entrenched throughout all strata of society, to be controlled by mere men.

Thus, from his text: "The attempt to rule over the whole world is a schizophrenic idea of vain communist leaders only because the tendency to world-wide rule has an objective existence in the social organism itself. The Soviet Union has already acquired such a momentum of inertia in this direction that only a world catastrophe is capable of stopping it."

Bouncing energetically in the safety of his London armchair, he illustrates by example: "It is ridiculous and damaging for the Russians to be anywhere in Africa, or the Caribbean, or Central America. It is expensive and brings them no profit. But in Moscow there are large departments dealing with Soviet presence in these places, and those departments provide jobs, and promotions, and medals. The administrative machinery exists, so the Russian presence abroad is a fact."

"If I were Soviet leader I would sell Cuba to the Americans, and with the money I would buy computers and bread. It is expensive nonsense to support Cuba. There is no good reason."

But because it has the apparatus and the experience, it is absurd to expect anything else from the Soviet government. Expansion and hegemony are programmed into the machine, and they will not be erased by mere practical common sense alone.

Again from the text: "In spite of the fact that many people in the West talk and write a lot about opposition in the Soviet Union, its role within the country is fairly pitiful and futuristic."

And from the armchair: "Many people in the West supported the dissident movement, believing they could bring about change in the Soviet Union. They failed utterly; all they did was to provide the Soviet government and the KGB with valuable experience in dealing with dissidents."

Zinoviev has been formulating his theories on the nature of communist society since his hungry and oppressed boyhood under Stalin, when his mother worked 14 hours a day in the fields of a collective farm. His first night in a proper bed, and his first square meal, he says, were in his first night in the Lubyanka prison.

But surely the nature of communism can be changed. Did not Khrushchev effect radical change after the death of Stalin? Such a revolution, says Zinoviev, can



Alexander Zinoviev

happen only once. Even then it did not alter the fundamental nature of society, nor greatly touch the life of the average Soviet citizen, although he concedes that the political climate is more liberal. Stalin would not have deported Zinoviev; he would have shot him.

But liberalism has strict limits within communism. "Communism with a human face is a nonsense, as much a nonsense as capitalism without profit."

Nor does the ex-professor believe in the theory of osmosis, that the positive elements of communism and capitalism will seep in both directions through the Iron Curtain, and that some Utopian society will be born from the best features of each. "To have the positive elements you must also have the negative elements. In the Soviet Union you have cheap housing and a guaranteed job. But you also have bad housing and stupendous inefficiency; you cannot have one without the other."

Unlike *The Yawning Heights*, Zinoviev's latest book has been written with what might be reasonably supposed to be the added benefit of a detached view of his own country from the West. But his views have changed little since his enforced emigration seven years ago.

"The West is very much as I expected it to be. But I have learned a few things which have slightly altered my perception. For example, in the Soviet Union I was conscious that the state wasted a huge percentage of its natural and human resources. Now I find that western countries are just as bad."

Still, he will admit to a ray of optimism about the West, almost the only sunbeam to shine from this cheerfully gloomy man. "For the time being at least, the West has a promising future; western society is so dynamic and creative."

He rises dynamically from his chair, and pumps the proffered hand of farewell warmly and with passion, the 61-year-old face simultaneously beaming with the enthusiasm of conversation and heavy with the colour of past cares and future shocks. Every inch a Russian. "The Reality of Communism," by Alexander Zinoviev, Victor Gollancz, £12.95.

سنة ١٤٠٤ هـ

BOOKS

Fay Weldon's new novel Feminist fable

The Life and Loves of a She-Devil
By Fay Weldon

(Hodder & Stoughton, £8.95)

Danger. Woman At Work. Fay Weldon's ninth novel, her best since *Praxis*, is a tour de force: a macabre, fast-moving moral fable. The whirling of time brings in its revenges - fantastical, frightening, diabolically funny - for marital infidelity.

It is as if a cartoon character from James Thurber's *Men, Women and Dogs* - "That's My First Wife Up There", say, or "Yoo-hoo, it's Me And The Ape Man" - had broken free from her restraining caption to collaborate with "Martha", Jill Tweedie's *Fainthearted Feminist*, on a Grimm edition of *Holy Writ*. Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, Mrs Weldon's precise, distinctive prose packs a Scriptural punch. But "God's ways are far too mysterious for me to put up with them any more." It is only fair to warn you that "it's every woman for herself".

Hate, with its attendant energy in revenge, is a light to lighten the darkness of a woman scorned. Fanned by Fay Wel-

don's gentle, relentless hand, the fires of Hell itself inflame and illumine Ruth, six feet two inches tall and clumsy; patient and practical; wife and mother turned "She-devil, a malignant woman... with the violence, desperation, cleverness or other qualities attributed to the Devil" (*OED*). She does so, naturally, in dutiful, desperate response to her adulterous husband's self-justifying declaration that she is a she-devil already, not a woman at all: "I see you at last as you really are."

Stop me if you have heard that one before. Dearly Beloved. But pin a rose on Mrs Weldon. Undeviatingly feminine, deviantly feminist, her text this morning is a double jeopardy: truth revealed in fire and brimstone, wormwood and gall. All women are equal in their inequality with men, and suffer injustice, especially in marriage. But some women are more equal than others; and therefore more equal to their lot.

Like Mary Fisher. Mary Fisher is "small and pretty and delicately formed, prone to fainting and weeping and sleeping with men while pretending that she doesn't." Mary Fisher spent twelve hundred dollars and fifty cents on shoes

for her size 4 feet last year, and could afford to, because she writes romantic novels "which sell by the hundred thousand in glittery pink and gold covers", and makes a fortune. Mary Fisher "tells lies to herself and to the world." Ruth can forgive Mary Fisher many things, but not the novels. She loves her husband and she hates Mary Fisher, the Other Woman in the Eternal Triangle.

What is sauce for the gander, sisters, is poison for the goose. Clever, patient, practical Mrs Weldon is here to help you not to be a goose-girl. In a succession of heling, interfering roles, taking practical, sensible advantage of a beautifully manufactured cast of secondary characters. Ruth takes Mary Fisher to the cleaners, her erring spouse to professional, financial, and emotional ruin, and herself - in appalling surgical parody of pantomime Transformation Scenes - to Born-Again Beauty: complete physical reconstruction: smaller, prettier, more delicately formed. (Top-to-toe reincarnation begins - one by one - with your teeth.)

Move over, Jehovah. Here is not so much feminist heresy as blasphemy. Every woman's Guide to Genesis. Salvation, for Girls of Slender Means; and practical, sensible advice. Nearly 20 years on from *The Fat Woman's Joke*, her first novel, Fay Weldon is still smashing rose-coloured spectacles left and right.

Her work has been attributed to and largely appreciated for contemporary feminism; but it is neither fair nor appropriate to this to corset her achievement. The "feminist novel", a self-restricting, artistically second-rate reflection of sexual, social, and political preoccupations in (roughly) the 1970s, did not sustain such direction as it had; still less develop as a literary genre. It now seems stranded: washed up somewhere between whinge and scream. Emily Prager's stories, unconsciously, outrageously, original - are a new American register, but she is more devilish than feminist. So is Fay Weldon: an English species no less deadly, more subtle, and - *sub specie aeternitatis* - probably more enduring.

Her art is what it was in the beginning and, if we are lucky, ever shall be: "a comic turn, turned serious". Less obviously, she edges close to a magic circle more potent than mere feminism - even adult - fiction.

Fairy tales are fixed stars above burnt-out galaxies of literary fashion and hype. Almost free from the constraints of time and place, full of strange oaths, powerful simplicities, and stark, old-fashioned moral contrasts, they are, perhaps, our secular substitutes for medieval Bestiaries and Books of Hours: stylized stories and litany ritually rehearsed in texts gilded and decorated in primary colours; margins aswarm with grotesqueries both fanciful and recognizable; fabulous, in the proper sense. *The Life and Loves of a She-Devil* is only a long spoon away from classic fable.

Gay Firth



On the left the title-page of *Swallowdale*: on the right Arthur Ransome in 1953

Fiona MacCarthy reviews the biography of the grand old bore of hearty children's books about Titty and Roger and the rest of the team

The stormy seas under Swallows and Amazons

The Life of Arthur Ransome
By Hugh Brogan

(Cape, £10.95)

For someone who so desperately cultivated dullness, the peculiar English dullness of the cultured country life - the symbols of which are the book and pipe and fishing rod - Arthur Ransome had a quite unjustly highly-coloured life. Not just two tempestuous marriages, a law-suit with melodrama (Lord Alfred Douglas v Ransome and Others), but also a ringside view of the Russian revolution, hardly the most restful environment of the century, which he reported for the *Daily News*. He himself saw the huge irony.

People interested in revolutions and revolutionaries will be shocked at my not being a revolutionary, and will not understand how one with a front seat at a revolution could be always thinking of books, and most of all, books for children.

Arthur Ransome, whose books for children in the end brought fame and fortune (though less fortune than this fatefully discontented author felt had been his due), wrote his *Autobiography* which was brought out posthumously in 1976. Now here is Hugh Brogan with a large new life of Ransome, published this week, centenary of Arthur Ransome's birth.

If we have Ransome on Ransome do we really need Hugh Brogan? This is an obvious question and extremely quick to answer. Both are quite essential. Hugh Brogan, a historian, throws light on many obscure areas of Ransome's narrative, in particular the

Russian years, in which Ransome's Bolshevik fervour became, for the British, an embarrassment. Also Brogan can stand back, admitting Ransome could be maddening, yet seeing in the least alluring of his traits, the terrible obtuseness of his ways with other people (two else but Arthur Ransome, writing to his mistress, would tell her "I miss your ugly mug", especially when the mistress was fairly far from beautiful), the symptoms of the single-mindedness, almost the innocence, of the best of Ransome's writing. With a professional biographer's perception, without forcing things at all, he finds the pattern of the life.

To this present rather harder-headed generation one of the most interesting aspects of the story, which Brogan brings out well, is the dedication with which young would-be writers of that early period approached what they emphatically thought of as their craft. Ransome's seriousness in setting up his own regime of "writing and reading, reading and writing" reminds one poignantly of the struggles of George Orwell (that other leading literary figure of the month) in teaching himself mechanics of composition. Ransome's style was from the start more facile than George Orwell's, just as he took revolutions more lightly. This was almost his undoing. For example, sent to write a guide book to St Petersburg, the sort of assignment he accepted by the dozen in his early years of writing, he composed 1,200 words on only his second day there, which even by modern standards is going rather fast.

One sees why the quiet life so constantly evaded him. The image of the Lakes, remembered from his childhood visits with a pleasure and intensity which in later life took on an almost mystic meaning, was not totally compatible with the need to earn a living in the literary London of the early 1900s, selling his work around the vaguely literary magazines which came and went in such convenient profusion. He enjoyed Bohemian life, for as well as the querulous and melancholy streaks in Arthur Ransome's character, he could also be rumbustious and friendly. Brogan's Bohemian chapter, quoting at length from Stephana Stevens, a writer friend of Ransome's who put him in novel as the "bombastic, brutal and bouncing" Matavers, is fascinating reading. Miss Stevens emphasizes the shagginess of Ransome: "the shagginess was not so much due to hairiness, for his face was smooth, except for an untidy and somewhat underdeveloped moustache, as to a general impression conveyed by his personality. Possibly his aura was shaggy."

Literary shagginess: one still knows what she means exactly. Was this the genesis of a whole literary type? Ransome fits in that particularly hale, and shaggy, era between the writers of the fin-de-siècle and the Georgians. He was, if not a simple-lifer, certainly an open-roader, even purchasing a donkey cart to prove it, and he liked nights out in tents with very masculine companions. He found women very difficult. Or did he create their problems? It seems women were the major hazard in his



life, looming darkly like bad spirits in the folk tales Ransome so much loved. The women were often especially large ones. His second wife Evgenia, Trotsky's secretary (a typically inept choice of Arthur Ransome's, involving him in flights across the frontiers with forged passports) was even known around Petrograd as "the big girl", although her feet were strangely - perhaps sinisterly - small. But Ransome's first wife Ivy was in her way still more formidable, quite inclined to call her husband to her bed at breakfast-time to watch her tip a

plate of poached eggs onto her head, in a vain attempt to introduce him to some of the dramatic possibilities of life. For in the end of course he did approach quite near the perfect dullness which he had for all those years been craving (as I know to my cost, my memories of reading *Swallows and Amazons* being the most deadeningly tedious of my childhood). But Hugh Brogan's fine account of the route by which he got there is not dull by any means. A considerable feat.

Rabbit run as reviewer

Hugging the Shore

Essays and Criticism

By John Updike

(Andre Deutsch, £21)

The larger part of the readership for this collection will no doubt be composed of those who admire John Updike's novels, but such readers may well be disappointed. In these acres of patient review work (most of it written over the last seven or eight years), there is rarely any indication of the larger writer coolly looking on. It is not simply that his tone as a critic is quite different from that as a novelist - very few writers need, or even want, a single voice - but rather that he seems actively to have exorcised the novelist in order to become the attentive interpreter of other people's books. This is an aspect of his professionalism, in getting on with the work at hand, but such modesty may be inappropriate on those occasions when the subjects of his essays are much less interesting than himself.

There are a few small clues, however, which might prompt an uninformed reader to believe that the author of these occasional pieces is more than

an inhabitant of America's equivalent of Grub Street. Updike retains a quality of willful impersonality, observing and reporting on what he has observed, never allowing his character to intrude in the frantic manner of those whose only "creative" outlet is journalism. Some brief reflections on his own work are reprinted as an appendix only, under the studiously neutral heading of "On One's Own Oeuvre". And the same reader might guess at this other career when faced with Updike's interest in the financial and practical details of a writer's life - the relationship with publishers (there are some harsh criticisms here of the appearance and typography of certain books) and with an audience. Only a reviewer with other irons in the fire would declare that "A writer with a democratic public for a patron must hope that he will in his work line up with enough people's notion of what is entertaining and informative to make that work pay." This is true enough, but it raises the question of which audience Updike himself wishes to "line up with".

Whatever it is, he seems quite at home with it. His tone is

elegant but easy, with an urbanity which is characteristic of the American magazine, the *New Yorker*, for which he worked during a short period in the 1950s. The largest number of these reviews have been taken. It is the voice of metropolitan authority, in which the dissection of authors quite different from himself is performed with a kind of good-humoured competence. He does not wound, although with novelists like William Burroughs and Gunter Grass he may occasionally sting, generally he soothes, he consoles, he exhorts. The most he will allow himself in the way of negative comment is the occasional note of arch superiority - "Got that?" he writes of a peculiarly inane piece of German prose, in the style of those brief comments which *New Yorker* journalists append to extracts taken from other, less literate, journals. This tone of easy superiority can sometimes be grating, primarily because it is symptomatic of a culture in its imperial phase - with its essays on European, South American and Oriental fiction (let alone from "The World Called Third"), we have an American confidence which can treat the whole world as a suitable province for its judgments.

But it is difficult to elicit any general statements from a book of occasional pieces which precludes any grand intent; there are times when he will use a magnificent cliché - "Believe in the soul; this is one of his links with the ancients, with the great books" - but ornate generalizations are almost unavoidable in anyone who appears in print as often as Updike does. He is, in that sense, a reviewer rather than a critic - although he deals justly and carefully with every writer he confronts, one would be hard pressed to find any coherent or original principles informing this collection. As a result, not everything he writes is very interesting when taken outside the confines of a particular publication date. That is one reason why it seems odd that these reviews should be published in collected form. Updike is fair, exact and lucid but such qualities are not seen at their best when extended over 900 pages, and they may give the misleading impression that they are the only virtues which he possesses as a writer.

But this is not too severe a judgment, and there are good things in these pages when Updike's irony and power of perception break above the gentle undulations of his prose. He writes of the Bowell industry at Yale University, for example, that "The academic literature mill, having ground all the grain it can find, will grind chaff rather than shut down"; as one would expect, he is an astute reader of fiction, and there are some true appreciations here of Iris Murdoch and Barbara Pym (better than most they receive from their compatriots). The overall impression is of a sane and judicious admirer of the best; it is not so uncommon a gift, however, that one is not grateful for the fact that he is a novelist rather than a journalist.

Brian Alderson

Peter Ackroyd

Fiction of the week To teach the young idea...

The Cannibal Galaxy
By Cynthia Ozick

(Secker & Warburg, £7.95)

The Far Side of Victory
By Joanne Greenberg

(Gollancz, £8.95)

Joseph Brill, Principal of the Edmund Fleg Primary School, is a formidable old of a man, a tyrant to his staff but not to the children whose minds are being expensively moulded according to the tenets of the Dual Curriculum - a modestly innovative blend of religious and secular knowledge which appeals to the Jewish doctors whose children keep the Edmund Fleg afloat. Brill dislikes his pupils' parents. The men buy themselves new yachts instead of donating labs to the Edmund Fleg, while their wives protest too much on behalf of their offspring. Brill suspects their anger is stimulated largely by the mammary gland. Not that he is opposed to the maternal instinct. Although still a bachelor at 58, his interest in procreation is not entirely academic. His one remaining ambition is to rear a prodigy - his own child, if absolutely necessary.

Then the improbable happens: Hester Litt enrols her child Beulah at the Edmund Fleg. Brill has seen the woman on television, heard her

described - with awe - as an imagistic linguistic logician. He has no idea what the phrase means, and is little the wiser for a trip to the local library. With titles like *Metaphor as Exegesis*, it is no wonder the epistemological books leave the Principal feeling weak. But ecstatic, too, for surely the child of such a luminary must be the prodigy he has been seeking.

The prospect is entrancing. In fact, Brill becomes infatuated with mother as well as daughter. Lill. Alas, his ambitions founder, on Beulah's irremediable mediocrity and her mother's unyielding indifference to his overtures. It is the professional failure which causes the Principal greater distress.

Years later, retired in Florida, Brill is still complaining that Hester Litt "was loud and plundered" his life. He has his own child now, whose mother is everything Hester was not: young, attractive and, above all, normal. But the boy's formidable intellectual gifts turn out to be those of the pedant, and in the end the backward Beulah outshines them all.

The Cannibal Galaxy (a reference to astronomical entities whose treatment of smaller brother galaxies is presumably meant to parallel Hester's devouring of Brill) is very much the sort of book publishers tend to push out in January, when no one expects to sell books anyway. After all, what else could you do with a writer described as "soulful and interesting by *The New Statesman*"? But don't be put off. Cynthia Ozick is a literary writer, true,

and a mite fantastical for my taste. But her manipulation of words and bizarrely applied erudition make her a force to be reckoned with. So too is Joanna Greenberg. Perhaps better known as Hannah Green, the pellucid pen-name she adopted for her first novel *I Never Promised You A Rose Garden*, Miss Greenberg is a professional story teller of the old school, who believes in putting plausible characters into interesting situations and letting them get on with it. *The Far Side of Victory* begins with a fearless young charmer lying in hospital, after a car crash in which he has caused the death of five people. Thanks to his father's skilful manipulation of the legal system, Eric Gordon escapes with a suspended sentence, and is free to resume his undemanding life-style.

But he chooses not to, settling instead in the town where the accident occurred, and taking a job in the city engineering department. He meets up with the woman whose husband and children were amongst his victims, and his determination to offer her something to replace what he has destroyed marks the beginning of an intriguing, if never entirely convincing, relationship. They got married and enjoy a period of domestic bliss. Colorado style, before the book ends as it began, in violent, senseless tragedy. Or is it senseless? A double-twist dénouement maintains interest, if not to the end, at least to the penultimate paragraph.

John Nicholson

The art of growing old

Sister Age
By M. F. K. Fisher

(Chatto & Windus, £8.95)

Mrs Fisher is in her late seventies. I mention this since she herself makes it a point of her new book, *Sister Age*, in her 28th year she decided ultimately to write "an important book about the art of aging". Inspired by this ambition by the purchase, in a Zurich junkshop, of a painted leather portrait of one Ursula von Ott, born in 1767, amateurishly executed by her youngest son in 1808. It is, Mrs Fisher notes, an "ugly dark old picture", grimly unflattering of its sitter, yet one who is finally impressive to Mrs Fisher, because Ursula's eyes "look with a supreme and confident detachment past all the nonsense of wars, insects, birth and death, love...". Ursula von Ott became Mrs Fisher's personal saint and teacher, and by way of homage, she built up a forty year collection of stories and clippings about old age, boxfalls assimilated, until she felt able to create the book that had haunted her all her life.

M. F. K. Fisher, an American of Quaker stock, is best known for her gastronomic writings (not being a domestic animal these are unknown to me) and contributions to the *New Yorker*. She has also written several volumes of personal recollections about her friends and

places which have enchanted her. Also one novel, reviewed last week in these pages. She has been praised by no less a critic than Auden; "I do not know anyone in the United States today who writes better prose." A literary judgment which might, perhaps, be viewed as somewhat emphatic and arbitrary. Certainly there is a subdued grace about her prose, a delicacy of choice in adjective and imagery, a refined elegance: the overall word is, I think, mandarin. Opinion is inevitably subjective, and I find in *Sister Age* a lack of spice. It is all very gently paced, ladylike in an American way. It does not compel attention, nor make the mind leap with delight since it offers no surprises. One waits for revelations which do not come. To describe it as banal would be to overstate the matter, yet what does this teach, inform, communicate about age?

Slivers of autobiography interlink with semi-fictional chapters about the aged, vignettes really. An old man selling Bibles provokes tears in the twelve year old author to be because he picks a rose as he leaves. There are three supernatural tales, one which does light up as a man in his sixties falls in love for the first time in his life (although married) with a woman in her forties. We have the inevitable comparison between old people and old houses. I think it is the

prettiness of the scene Mrs Fisher unfolds which irritates my reality and imagination. There is too much self-consciousness, a prevailing patronizing generalization, which I feel to be American, and thereby totally alien to the harder English or European mind.

A concluding chapter is in effect a gentle lecture about the "scary" potentials of aging which strikes the mind as awfully out of date. It must be, surely, the American syndrome about age which foxes Mrs Fisher's vision. The English I feel, manage this matter of lifespan rather better. According to their circumstances, the English (and European) on reaching Mrs Fisher's nadir of the sixties decade, build fantastic houses, create magnificent gardens, write or paint masterpieces and fall in love, which, if eccentric, appears to be a healthier attitude to age which is a sum of years to be healthily ignored. I am tempted to remind Mrs Fisher of Cezanne's Abbaye's recent reply to a *Times* interviewer when questioned about his age: "Age does not count", stated Abbaye: "What counts is passion and liking what one does." Quite a corrective to Mrs Fisher's saint, Ursula von Ott, whose detachment from life so attracted her, and which inspired this well-meaning yet starchy, if fairly well-written sentimental volume.

Kay Dick

Children: relish in prodigy and wonder

As we have just been firmly reminded, 1984 is the year of Samuel Johnson as well as of That Book, and it behaves even writers about juvenalia to pay admiring respects. For tucked away in the backstairs cupboards of Johnsoniana there is proof enough that this majestic pragmatist took a properly synthetic view of children's reading. Like one or two enlightened people today, he saw that enjoyment was the *sine qua non* in the making of readers - and, despite offence given to omnipresent utilitarians, he also recognized that enjoyment came from the child's relish for prodigies and wonders and that children's books could do worse than feed that pleasure.

He lived in simple times however. It was easy enough to distinguish the virtues of Jack the Giant-Killer from those of Timothy Teacup when few alternative heroes were on offer, and when nobody cared much anyway. Would the good man be so sanguine about the "superfotation" of modern books when confronted with the 3449 new children's books produced in 1983 - and with a critical response that varies from the sycophantic to the bilious (like that scheme to exclude Tintin and Asterix from public libraries)?

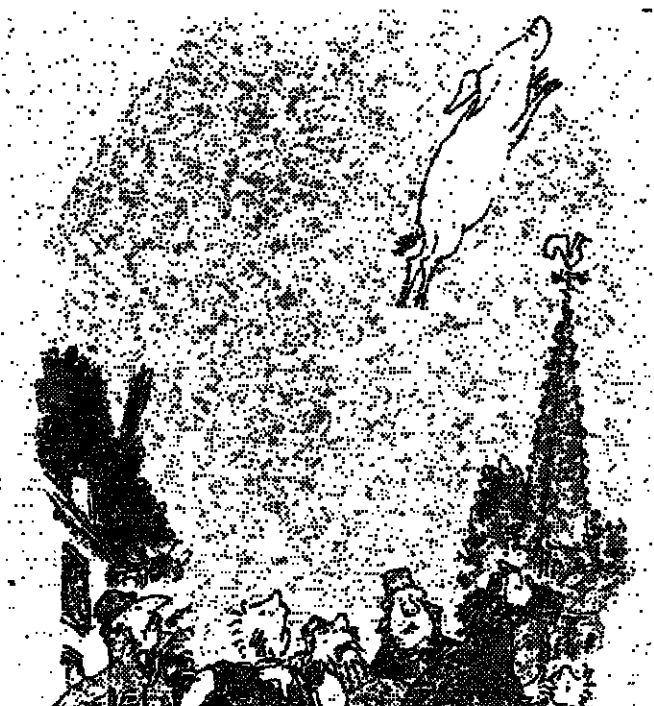
Nevertheless, it was a pleasure to hear Jane Gardam (who is one of today's most felicitous writers for children) reassert what she awarded the £3,000 Whitbread Prize to a book written bravely to evoke pleasure: Roald Dahl's *The Witches* (Cape, £6.50) - and she might well have coupled to Mr Dahl's name that of his illustrator, Quentin Blake, whose frantic draughtsmanship - so apparently careless, so actually precise - is emblematic of all that is meant by uninhibited enjoyment.

Quentin Blake's own Nursery Rhyme Book (Cape, £4.95) is

one certain good among a host of overpriced, self-absorbed picture books that appeared in 1983. If you bundle it up with entertainments like William Steig's tale of a mouse-dentist, *De Soto* (Andersen Press, £4.95) or Bob Wilson's comic strip Stanley Beagham and the Twenty-Two Ton Whale, in the metre of "Sam and His Mucker" (Hamish Hamilton £4.75; Puffin £1.25) and if you set them beside Anthony Browne's *Gorilla* (MacRae, £4.95), which won the £1,000 Kurt Mascher prize, you will see the gulf that is fixed between natural comedy and our preoccupation with heavy significance. Mr Browne is a clever, highly-talented painter, who is very good at *rompe-l'oeil* gorillas and pastiche Mervyn Peake, but despite one stunning drawing of a little girl nervously addressing her frigid (single) papa his prize-winning picture book is an artificial affair, ponderous in design and with a rigged story.

Indeed, the rigging of children's stories for ulterior ends probably called forth Johnson's famous objection that "babies do not want to read about babies", but the practice predominates still. (After all, it's easier to do, as Johnson himself found out. His own moral tales for children are, predictably, a disaster.) Nowadays we have learnt to hide the most obtrusive patterning under a gloss of realist bravado or flip humour. Even so, it is depressing to see the insouciance with which books like *Gorilla* are greeted; or books like Bernard Ashley's *Your Guess Is as Good as Mine* (MacRae, £3.50), a novelette for seven-year-olds about a boy being picked up by a car-driver of dubious intentions. (Quentin Blake's *The Damned* (Bodley Head, £4.50), a jolly romp for adolescents about strife between factions in the anti-nuclear industry.

However well-meaning such works, their mechanism creaks



Dickery, dickery, dare, the pig flew up in the air, from Quentin Blake's Nursery Rhyme Book (Cape, £4.95)

beside the natural ease of the gifted storyteller. It may not have been a very good year for prodigies and wonders, apart from the virtuoso drama of Terry Jones and Michael Foreman in *The Saga of Erik the Viking* (Pavilion, £6.95) - and why wasn't that short-listed for the Mascher prize?, nevertheless realistic fiction hasn't been all sombre. Tim Kennemore and Jan Mark have both produced volumes of witty short stories: *Here Tomorrow*, *Gone Today* (Faber, £5.50) by the one, *Feet (Kestrel, £4.95)* by the other, and the arrival of several of their earlier books in paperback confirms their reputation for sharp, comic observation, set down without the offstage sound of grinding axes.

Most encouraging of all this year, perhaps, are two quasi historical romances: Rosemary Sutcliffe's star-struck account of

Brian Alderson

THE TIMES DIARY

Red's black and white

As a subject for its annual competition, the Association of Fashion, Advertising and Editorial Photographers has asked photography students to produce "a set of three black-and-white pictures that illustrate the mistrust that exists between police and ethnic minority groups in urban Britain". The competition task was set up by Red Saunders, a freelance photographer. A spokesman for the association admitted that there has been a reaction from one or two of the colleges, and that some of the entries had obviously been posed. Asked to comment, Deputy Assistant Commissioner Richard Wells of Scotland Yard said: "De nihil in rebus" or, as King Lear said, "Nothing shall come of nothing".

Laboured joke

Neil Kinnock is revealing a talent for excruciating puns in fraanglais. Told about the hijack of the lorry drivers and their cargo of British lamb just before his visit to Paris last week, he remarked: "It's viande a joke". I hope he forgot to tell that one to President Mitterrand.

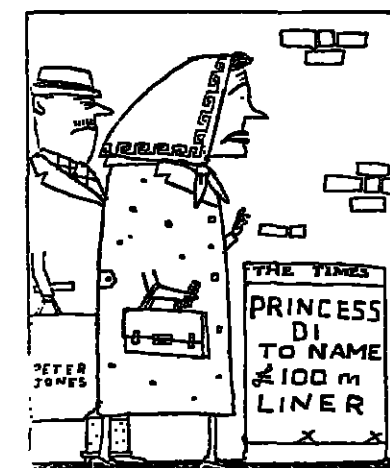
Short-tempered

Passengers on the 13.10 London-Edinburgh shuttle on Monday had good cause to curse the ground staff at Edinburgh, who cleared only a 70-ft-wide strip of snow from the runway. The captain did not try to land and flew to Manchester instead. Passengers were given the choice of flying back to London, staying overnight in Manchester or taking the train to Scotland. Those who went by train arrived at Waverley station at 5 am, having been held up by the weather. Pilots of smaller planes took their chances at Edinburgh, but as soon as there was a break in the traffic the runway was swept again, this time to clear its full 110 feet.

Misadventure

The Biko Inquest - a new play by John Blair and Norman Fenton, based on transcripts of the actual inquest into the death of the black South African activist, opens at the Riverside Studio later this month. Andrew Eaton, the theatre's press officer, was rather surprised when a journalist from a Sunday newspaper asked if it was true that Albert Finney was starring as Biko. Finney, in fact, is directing the play and appears as Sidney Kentridge, the Biko family's lawyer.

BARRY FANTONI



"Remembering her wedding, I hope she gets it name right"

False premise

A photograph in the new *AA Guest Houses, Farmhouses and Inns in Britain* Guide purports to be of Gloucester Cathedral, but in fact is Tewkesbury Abbey, 12 miles away. The vicar of Tewkesbury, the Rev Michael Moxon, said that since he was in a forgiving mood, he had decided it was nice to have a picture of the abbey in the guide even if it did appear under false pretences. Anyway, "Everyone knows which is the more beautiful of the two buildings without having to consult the new guide."

Fiddling while...

The EEC information service has illustrated its recent listings of forthcoming events with a drawing of a street musician, playing rather dolefully upon a fiddle. This may be a reference to the current state of the Community's finances.

Sixty local authority chief executives have just attended a special preview of films made by Video Arts (prop: John Cleese) to help them improve their leadership and managerial skills. Among the titles shown were *Do You Think You Can Manage?* and *You'll Get the Hang of It*.

Natural break

It was an excellent 1983 for Boase Massimi Pollitt: the advertising agency got a full quotation on the Stock Exchange, giving it a market value of £16.23m, picked up £14m of new business and, last week, was chosen as agency of the year by *Campaign* magazine.

Not everyone was impressed by the agency's performance, however. A 16-year-old schoolgirl spent a day at BMP as part of a scheme to give pupils exposure to different industries. BMP pulled out all the stops, showing her the work of each department and how advertisements were developed from conception to completion. At the end of the day, the chairman, Martin Boase, asked what aspect appealed to her most. "Lunch," she said.

PHS

Let Temple Bar rest in peace

by Gavin Stamp

The public inquiry now examining the plan to reconstruct Temple Bar in the churchyard just north of St Paul's Cathedral promises to be the penultimate act in London's longest-running conservation farce, for attempts have been made to repatriate it for more than 60 years. The present proposal is the cherished project of Sir Hugh Wontner's Temple Bar Trust. But the inquiry is necessary as the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings and other responsible bodies consider that St Paul's Churchyard is quite the wrong site for the Bar and that, perhaps, it is best left where it is - in a field in Hertfordshire.

Temple Bar was the ceremonial gateway which stood where Fleet Street meets the Strand, dividing the City of London from Westminster. It was built in 1670-72 by Edward Marshall and Thomas Knight, masons, to replace an earlier structure. Possibly, but possibly not, it was designed by Wren; no matter. It is a handsome and rumbustious classical design surmounted with spikes, once adorned with the heads of traitors and Jacobites. In 1858 the Bar was condemned by the Metropolitan Board of Works as an obstruction to traffic, but it was not removed until the Strand was widened in 1878.

Its stones were numbered and deposited on a vacant lot off Farringdon Street. In 1888 they were bought and rescued by Sir Henry Bruce Meux, who took them to his estate at Theobalds Park in Hertfordshire.

Here, at his own expense - £12,000 - he reconstructed them and added flanking wings to make Temple Bar into a garden pavilion.

One of the first to propose bringing Temple Bar back to London seems to have been Lord Knutsford in 1923, but the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Buildings opposed the idea and took the view that "a building once demolished loses its fundamental interest".

Projects to rebuild Temple Bar gathered momentum after the Second World War, with the City suddenly conscious of the architectural heritage it had done its best to destroy before the Blitz.

In 1973 Sir Hugh Wontner, then Lord Mayor of London, proposed rebuilding Temple Bar next to St Clement Danes. In 1977, he launched the Temple Bar Trust which, thanks to Sir Ian Gilmour, now owns the structure standing in Theobalds Park.

The estimated cost of restoring and rebuilding Temple Bar is now at least £1m. Wontner has raised money in Britain and America, and £500,000 of government money is on offer providing an equal sum can be raised privately.

With so much financial goodwill it may seem churlish to question the validity of the project, but it may not be in the best interests either of London or of Temple Bar. The site being considered is the one first proposed by that disastrous planner, the late Lord Holford, who did so much to damage the surroundings of St Paul's. Even if

Temple Bar was designed by Wren, as Professor Kerry Downes now thinks, that is no reason to suppose it would look right next to the monumental north wall of its great cathedral. The Temple Bar was not originally a free-standing structure but abutted on to ordinary houses either side. It was part of that rich pattern of narrow City streets that planners and developers have done their best to sweep away. If it is to be reconstructed, it should be between buildings of the right scale.

What is depressing is that money can so easily be raised for so essentially redundant a project when other great historic buildings need money desperately.

At a time of financial stringency it does seem irresponsible to spend half a million pounds of taxpayers' money to beautify the wealthy City of London. It is all too typical of the sentimentality of City business interests to be concerned about Temple Bar, which still exists, when so much of the old fabric of the City has been destroyed since 1945. Is it that the City is trying to salve its conscience?

Rebuilding Temple Bar will only damage its stone further. Why not spend about £50,000 on restoring it where it is and spend the rest of the money on buildings that really need it? I would suggest restoring the sad ruin of Christ Church, Newgate Street, by Wren. It was half-demolished by the City Corporation for a slip road only a decade ago. That is how much the City really cares.

Norman Lebrecht on PLR's demolition of some publishing preconceptions

Best-read but not top sellers



Archer: giving his £5,000 to help spastic writers

Cartland: just failed to make the maximum

Aldiss: "High time the libraries paid me"

Brophy: only £240 but will continue campaigning

Gittings: "A principle well worth fighting for"

The first Public Lending Rights accounts issued in the past few days to the 7,700 authors registered under the scheme contain secrets far more intriguing than the amounts accruing to one celebrity or another.

Systematically analysed, the PLR register has the makings of becoming the most accurate indicator available of what we really read, as distinct from the bestsellers we queue to buy. None of the current top dozen backlists, for example, is likely (or even intended) to be read from cover to cover: six are reference tools, three are coffee-table adornments, two are sporting books and the twelfth is an adjunct to an ephemeral television series. None, it may be fairly assumed from the patterns shown by the first PLR statements, will be among this year's most frequently lent titles. On the other hand, a title that is borrowed from public libraries 20,000 times in a year will probably have been thoroughly read.

The registrar of PLR, Mr John Sumson, intends to publish an assessment of public reading tastes based on borrowing figures. Meanwhile he welcomes researchers to his office at Stockton-on-Tees to draw their own conclusions from the assembled statistics. The only particular he will withhold is the amount earned by individual writers.

Most authors I have consulted have been surprised by the amounts they received and by discovering the relative popularity of different books. In financial terms, 46 writers qualify for the maximum payment of £5,000 (at 1.02p per borrowing) indicating that their books were borrowed more than half a million times between July 1982 and June of last year. The largest segment, 3,878 writers, will receive less than £100 in PLR; a further 1,614 will get nothing, having failed to achieve the minimum number of loans.

Tonight from the Kali Gandaki gorge in Nepal, from Mount St Helens, from Krakatoa and from Yellowstone Park we shall be invited to contemplate *The Building of the Earth*. Then, over the next 12 weeks, we shall be shown the flightless crane, filmed within a week of its discovery, the oldest and biggest living organisms, the courtship display of the blue-footed frog, the breeding cycle of the emperor penguin and much more. David Attenborough is back in action, once again inspiring wonder at the beauty and complexity of the world and guilt at our failure to protect it.

It is an irresistible formula. *The Living Planet's* 12 episodes have been sold to a dozen countries already and look virtually certain to repeat the worldwide success of their predecessor - *Life on Earth*.

The memory of the book of that series still makes publishers go weak at the knees. By the time *Life on Earth* was shown, sales had reached two million and the total worldwide figure may be as high as four million. Even when the £8 hardback was selling furiously in Britain, a second deluxe hardback edition was brought out by Readers' Digest at £12. Attenborough appeared to have invented an economist's nightmare - a product almost entirely lacking in price sensitivity.

Collins and BBC Publications are co-publishers. Attenborough insisted from the first that there should be a fully commercial partner, probably because of the poor distribution record of the BBC. When colour was introduced, he determined to come up with an idea which would announce the arrival of "hi-fi" television as thunderously as possible.

Surprisingly to some, though not to herself, M. M. Kaye, author of *The Far Pavilions*, was not numbered among the 100 most-borrowed authors. "I earned less than £2,500," she says, "and was pleasantly surprised by that, as I didn't think people would borrow big and heavy books such as mine. In my village library, they love Barbara Cartland."

Miss Cartland herself just failed to earn the maximum. But one who did, Jeffrey Archer, has arranged to donate his £5,000 - not a penny more, not a penny less - to the Spastics Society to subsidize the publication of an anthology by spastic writers (to be published later this year by Hodder and Stoughton).

"I have said all along that people who get the top amount don't need it and should not receive it," declares Archer, who was an MP while the PLR Bill struggled its way through Parliament in the 1970s. "The maximum payments should go back into the kitty to benefit people at the bottom of the scale."

Science-fiction writer Brian Aldiss found himself in the top-but-one earnings bracket - the most substantial confirmation yet of his authorial popularity. He was especially encouraged to find that *Hellionia Spring*, the opening book in a projected trilogy, had been borrowed 26,621 times in its first six months, anguishing well for its successors. "I'm not giving a penny away, except to the taxman," said

Aldiss. "I have worked consistently for a quarter of a century and produced one book a year. I'm an entertainer; it's high time the libraries paid me."

Both novelist Tim Jeal and thriller writer James Tucker (writing as David Craig) were delighted to find that older titles, which had long ceased earning any publisher's royalties, were still borrowed and read consistently. Jeal's prize-winning *Cushing's Crusade*, considered "too literary" to warrant a paperback edition when it appeared in 1974, was borrowed 3,206 times last year. A more recent historical novel, *A Marriage of Convenience*, registered 23,618 loans.

The novelist Brigid Brophy, however, earned only £240 from her books, £21 less than the national average. "It was slightly less than I had expected from 30 separate editions of 20 books that I registered. It shows up what I have always said were serious deficiencies in the system."

Miss Brophy, spearhead of the PLR campaign, continues to volunteer five or six hours a week as PLR expert of the Writers' Guild. She is set on inducing the Government to increase the £2m it has allocated to PLR, to abolishing the requirement to register each new edition with a public notary (at a cost of £2 a time) and to changing the rule by which individual editions that earn less than £1 are disqualified from

payment. This, she says, works against the veteran professional author whom the scheme was designed to benefit.

Dr Robert Gittings, the biographer of Keats and Hardy, and a professional writer for 30 years, seems a case in point. Of the 20 books he registered, only six scored the minimum number of loans, earning less than £250. "Nonetheless," he said, "I am not dissatisfied. The principle of PLR, even if it doesn't bring in much money, is well worth fighting for."

Norman Harris, a sportswriter who registered eight books for PLR, will receive payment only for the one that reached the minimum. His earnings, £15.24, amount to less than the cost of registering all eight titles separately.

The registrar is now thoroughly examining the workings of the scheme. Mr Sumson believes, however, that the Arts Minister's decision earlier this year to reduce the minimum earning per edition from £5 to £1 had eliminated most injustices, and he sees no need to reform the registration process.

Mr Sumson is alert to a prevalent worry among authors that borrowing patterns might be manipulated at the 16 libraries from which the national figure is calculated. "There has been no rigging on any substantial scale. The computer is programmed to ignore any extreme number of borrowings of a single book at a particular library. Of course, individuals living near one of the sample libraries may have their families borrow a book a few times, and this might affect the payment - but only slightly." Five or six libraries in the sample will be changed later this year, but Sumson still believes that the carefully chosen group of 16 will give the most accurate reading at the lowest cost.

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Batu, Bintang and the man who came to dinner

Attenborough goes back to nature

Book of the Month, much to the chagrin of Faber & Faber who are bringing out *The Paper Men*, the new novel from Nobel prizewinner William Golding. "Safe publishing and safe publishing," muttered one Faber executive bitterly.

But what makes it so safe? The answer must lie in a combination of the formula and the man. And, conveniently, it was the man who invented the formula. Attenborough was head of BBC2 when colour was introduced, and he determined to come up with an idea which would announce the arrival of "hi-fi" television as thunderously as possible.

He decided that the best thing was to show in glorious colour a selection of the most beautiful things men had ever produced. The result was Kenneth Clarke's *Civilisation*, which set the standard of success for this type of big, glossy television publishing tie-in.

Jacob Bronowski's *The Ascent of Man* followed, and, by this time, Attenborough had returned to programme-making and was working on *Life on Earth*. Niko Tinbergen, the animal behaviourist, compared Attenborough's career move to an evolutionary leap by a successful organism. It made him,

mused Tinbergen, unusually well-qualified to understand the problems involved.

But Attenborough tends to play down his own role. There are, he says, two elements which produce success: first, you give people the broadest and best possible view of a subject which they had always promised themselves they would find out about, and secondly, there must be a story - a feeling of excitement and curiosity about what happens next.

Viewers would add a third: Attenborough's own intimate and enthusiastic involvement with the material. Few will forget from *Life on Earth* the sight of him whispering to camera men amidst a group of gorillas with whom he then proceeded to exchange embraces.

It is at moments like that when the real mystique behind the marketing takes over. For the truth is that nobody else could do it. Attenborough has identified television as the ideal vehicle for making a vast range of knowledge accessible and, most important of all, coherent. The attempt to see things as a whole has largely been abandoned by laymen and specialists alike, but Attenborough mediates between the two.

With his gorillas and cranes Attenborough attempts to prove that nature is benign, and therefore cherishable. Man must control his population and his ambition to fit in with his plans. The real trick that has now filled the publisher's warehouses to bursting point is that Attenborough has appeared on the scene to tell us where we were going wrong, just when we wanted to hear

Bryan Appleyard

Ronald Butt

Thatcherism: living for the moment

Some of Mrs Thatcher's best friends, particularly those economists and advisers who, since 1979, have given the most vigorous intellectual support to her campaign against inflation, have just had a nasty shock. They now know from the Prime Minister herself something many of them had already come to suspect but which the more idealistic among them still could not quite bring themselves to believe. It is that Mrs Thatcher has no intention of attempting to reform the structure of the public sector and welfare spending; she has no plans for reducing the size of the non-industrial public sector, or even of investigating systematically whether or how it could be done. She intends to rely on growth and efficiency to contain it.

Yet Mrs Thatcher's disinclination to essay structural reform should not cause surprise since she is a politician who, though radical in instinct, is in operation highly pragmatic and obedient to what she regards as feasibility.

Only in the battle against inflation has she put doctrine first and here the conflict between her alleged dogmatism and her Tory critics' pragmatism was an illusory one. The truth is that Mrs Thatcher's doctrine on the need to control inflation by cuts in public spending and borrowing, and by interest rates, was also the only feasible policy. If the term "dogmatism" describes someone who is at odds with feasibility in the name of principle, it is a description much more befitting the Gilmourites who (when they were in the Cabinet) campaigned for higher spending than was possible. It was her anti-inflation policy, not their Keynesianism, that was pragmatic in the given circumstances.

There was no alternative, and she appreciated that the public understood this. So inevitable was the policy for any country not prepared to collapse into a siege economy, that even Socialist France has had to take the same course.

Once all this is understood, the Prime Minister's apparent desertion of the more schematic sort of economic radicalism becomes more comprehensible, whether one likes it or not. It is not that she has gone over to the "wets" (a term which well describes the sheer impracticability of the policy of Mr Francis Pym, Sir Ian Gilmour and Mr Norman St John Stevas); it is that, with the "wet" campaign over and outmoded, Mrs Thatcher reveals herself to be not a structural and doctrinal radical so much as a pragmatist who recognized the right doctrine for the moment.

So where does this leave Mrs Thatcher politically? In some respects, she is more isolated than she has ever been since 1979, and that has its dangers. For one thing, she has lost her close personal advisers who used to provide her with stimulus. The provocative ex-Marxist Sir Alfred Sherman has gone from the radical-right Centre for Policy Studies after a dispute with him and the CPS chairman, ex-Labour Lord (Hugh) Thomas, had virtually erupted into the Prime Minister's drawing-room.

The Prime Minister has also lost (except for the occasional visit) her economic adviser, Professor Alan

Waters, who has returned to his economic last. Likewise, she no longer has a politically stimulating head of her policy unit. Once it was Sir John Hoskyns, but he departed to lambast the machinery of government; then it was Mr Ferdinand Mount, who has taken his politically acute mind back to journalism. Their successor, Mr John Redwood, from Rothchilds and a Fellow of All Souls, Oxford, is very clever and understands money. But his political instinct is said to be chilly.

But the Prime Minister's greatest loss is her former Parliamentary Private Secretary, Mr Ian Gow, who was her eyes and ears in the Commons, and was always active there before his promotion to the Government. His successor, Mr Michael Allison, is an upright and a good man, but he is a reserved and rather remote figure, not naturally gregarious, who is not a natural liaison officer.

Overall, relations between the Prime Minister and the backbenchers have become a little distant. There is a feeling among Tory MPs that the Government has lost its political drive, and that is a sentiment distinct from the discontent of the government-in-exile on the backbenches (that curious amalgam of sacked wets and discontented dropped dries), and from dislike of the rate-capping legislation.

Yet it would be a mistake to conclude from this that the backbenches generally share the present discontent of Mrs Thatcher's radical-right adherents, though some do. The Conservative Party in this Parliament is still an inchoate body with no clear wings or groupings, and no firm collective character. It contains 101 new Members out of 297, who have not yet had time to get to know one another, and whose names and faces remain unknown to the older inhabitants, partly because the Commons has been in recess for three of the six months since the election.

Most of them have not found their feet sufficiently to know what policies they want of the Government. As for the older members, they are still somewhat battle-weary from the fight against inflation, and are glad the worst of it is over. They may be worried about the Government's drift and errors; about unemployment and rate-capping powers. But most of them show little urge to demand that a radical axe be taken to the structure of the 1945-51 welfare state. They want sound anti-inflation policies but there is no widespread demand for the kind of welfare reorganization or changes that might bring the party unpopular.

A quieter life would not come amiss to most of them. Having seen the Government restore financial rectitude they will be, perhaps, content to hope that the new growth which the Stock Exchange boom is clearly signalling, together with improved efficiency, will be enough to take care of the problems of the public sector. The question, of course, is what happens when the business cycle has run its course, when once again retrenchment is the order of the day and state spending has again to be cut hurriedly and clumsily for lack of clear priorities.

Jonathan Sale

A thin time off the fat of the land

It is a disgrace, the way people fill their faces. It is a scandal, the way their stomachs are over-burdened after meals. I speak as one who knows.

If ever the United Nations needs to ram home the point that the West (or North) over-eats at the expense of the East (or South), all it has to do is wheel me out, my massive calorie count on a placard round my neck, next to an Asian peasant bearing a note of his subsistence diet. Physically, there will not be much difference; without a shirt, so I am told, I look like a walking Oxfam advertisement. Gastronomically, and metabolically, I do not make sense.

Some folk are fat, whatever they consume; they have my sympathy. Others are thin, whatever disappears down the gullet; we deserve, and certainly receive, no sympathy. Where it goes, we in the second category have no idea. Perhaps in nervous energy or, in my case, just nervous.

By a terrible irony, World Food Day - October 16 - falls on my birthday. My earliest memories of my own and my friends' birthday parties are of receiving two teas: one before and one during the festivities, the idea being that the first would blunt my hunger to prevent me making an exhibition of myself during the second. It never worked.

We "thinies" ought to look like Terry Jones in the latest Monty Python film, portraying the man who eats everything on the menu up to and beyond bursting point. In fact, our ribs look like the operative parts of a xylophone, and the few friends who refrain from remarking on that, go on to state that we should go round medical schools as living, articulated skeletons. Inside thin men, there is often a fat man trying to get out.

It is an understatement to say that we do not have anorexia; yet colleagues bumped into (literally) in office corridors recoil and make nasty comments about splinters of bone in their upper arms. Our children, embraced too enthusiastically, back away.

If only we could make a greater impact on the bathroom scales, our consumption would at once slacken off. It may be that if we went on a crash diet, our weight would stay exactly the same; but this is not an experiment we care to try in, in

case we actually shed a few pounds and are blown away by a winter gust.

So we have second helpings of potatoes, possibly thirds. We finish what is left on our spouse's plates, we are torn between wanting our children to eat all their nourishing food, and hoping they leave it so that it can be spooned over us.

As it happens, I do know what it is like to have a subsistence diet. A Third World organization once invited me to a reception at which a random one third of the guests received a card stating: "Congratulations! You have just won a typical over-indulgent, three-course, Western-style meal." For them, the organizers provided a slap-up, sit-down lunch.

The other two thirds were handed a card saying: "Tough! All you can have is a bowl of rice, identical to that which millions must survive on." That was my card and it brought a mushy mixture, which I wolfed down, reflecting on the unfairness of which had led to all the city gangs and Tory MPs at the reception to land, by the luck of the draw, all the three-course cards. Then I went out for my lunch.

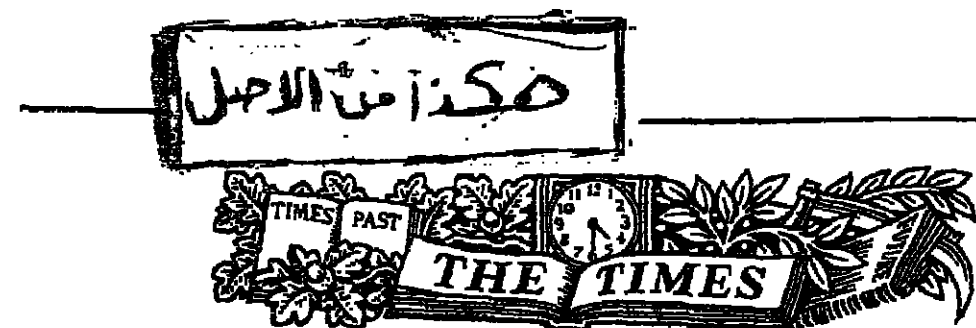
Chastened by this experience, I obtained from the Vegetarian Society a socially responsible diet which would be a little more appetising. Breakfast is grapefruit salad, lunch includes 2lb of potatoes, supper is a 10oz rice-and-sunflower seed loaf. Substantial enough in its way - except that this is described as a menu for four people. Will the rest of my family do for food?

As is becoming evident, my heart is in the right place but my stomach is not. Support is needed. Women with weight problems can read *Fat is a Feminist Issue* by Susie Orbach and never look back. But where is the companion volume - something like "Thin is a Masculine Trouble"?

Such a book would explain, for example, that riding a bicycle has nothing to do with my scarcity of flab, but just gives an even keener appetite.

Fortunately, some progress is being made. Still feeling full from the previous evening's intake, a few weeks ago I cut out the morning muesli and now make do with half a grapefruit for breakfast.

Unfortunately, the tendency now is to indulge in the muesli after supper. Still, it is a start. As opposed to a starter.



MR HEATH'S OLD CLOTHES

It is a rare Westminster politician who carries conviction as a village Hampden. Mr Edward Heath, arch-apostle of Tory corporatism, author of prices and incomes policies, does not exactly compel admiration as a champion of local authorities against the financial dictates of a Tory government. Nor did the backbench revolt on rate-capping signal Mr Heath's resurrection as the leader of alternative Conservatism.

But if Heath does not "matter" on the crude and cruel scorecard of practical politics, Heathism still does matter to the broader argument of political economy. On the same day as Mr Heath voted against his successor in the parliamentary lobbies, he launched an attack on her policies in a lecture which merits more serious attention.

Much of what Mr Heath now says he stands for matches ill with the history of his own government. But a re-run of that history is not fruitful. It is, after all, now 10 years to the month since Mr Heath led his party into the fatal confrontation with union power that ruined him. What matters now is the relevance of Heathism, old or re-born, to the present day.

First blood in the argument goes to Mr Heath. Mrs Thatcher's economic managers would admit, in private at least, that the policies embarked on in 1979 did make the recession worse. The government pushed up prices via higher VAT and massive public sector pay settlements, which were the legacy of Clegg, fondly hoping a tough

monetary policy would set things right. But because Mr Heath believes the subsequent unemployment was a tool of deliberate policy rather than the disastrously unexpected result of a half-baked policy muddle, he draws the wrong conclusions about the present.

Mr Heath seems to believe, not that the government's monetary policy was wildly inconsistent with everything else it tried to do in 1979, but that it was misconceived from start to finish. This leaves him quite free to condemn subsequent attempts to contain public borrowing as fashionable nonsense, but also leaves him naked against the winds of inflation.

This monetary blind spot in Mr Heath's field of vision is a distraction from the valid points he has to make about some of today's policies.

He argues that the level of public borrowing has become a fetish, but refuses to acknowledge that any monetary targets are important. Decisions have to be taken on these in the next couple of months - even weeks - and they have lain too long in shadow. For the government's share of the economy, it is public spending - its size and composition - that should be the focus of attention; once that is fixed, the government has no choice but to tax or to borrow; but Mr Heath is right to berate the government for failing to distinguish between the day-to-day running costs of the public sector and investment in better public services for the future.

More public investment is

needed in its own right. But Mr Heath also sees it as the best engine, now, of economic growth. In construction, he points out, it would create British jobs; while money which tax cuts place in British consumers' pockets spends itself on imports, creating far more foreign jobs. That is hardly a proper view for a true internationalist, but there is a more serious case against it. Britain's failure has been and continues to be the ability to match demand for goods with the ability to produce them.

It is no good trying to duck out of this problem by reaching back for the old crutches of economic policy. The task of second-term Thatcherism, to improve industrial performance, requires more political energy, more radical thinking, than a return to the old ways of economic management.

And the spectre of Heathism should be the spur. Mr Heath is arguing for reflection because he does not believe the present modest recovery can be sustained. While the government is looking for growth of 3% or so this year, Mr Heath is only prepared to foresee about 2%.

The importance of this seemingly trivial difference is that an extra 2% of output could be comfortably produced by those in work, without industry being obliged to create extra jobs. Mr Heath is probably wrong to be so pessimistic; the Treasury is more probably right to expect a rise in employment. But it is a narrow tightrope the government walks between hope and fear.

ABORTIONS TOO LATE

Last year a doctor was tried on a charge of attempted murder of a baby born as a result of an abortion operation, which the doctor had undertaken in the belief that the mother's pregnancy was ten weeks less advanced than the 33 weeks that it proved to be. The doctor was acquitted and the baby survived unscathed, but it had been too near a thing for both of them. If the child had died, the doctor might have had to face a charge of having knowingly destroyed the life of "a child capable of being born alive". An Act of 1929 lays down that a pregnancy of 28 weeks or more is *prima facie* proof that the infant has reached that stage.

The basic criterion laid down in 1929 would command wide assent today. But the time-limit specified by the 1929 Act has been left far behind by the progress of medicine. Modern techniques mean that some babies can be delivered alive, and survive, after as little as 24 weeks; these techniques continue to improve.

This means that doctors may sometimes undertake the abortion of babies who may well be "capable of being born alive", but can scarcely be proved to be so unless they actually are: in which case, of course, the doctor is obliged to do his best to protect them. A widening band of legal ambiguity has grown,

and an ugly paradox along with it: until the moment of birth the foetus is dispensable; after that moment it might be murder even to expose it to a draught; either way, the safest thing for it would have been to be left in the womb.

Of course it is better medically to carry out abortions long before that stage is reached, as yesterday's report from the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists shows. Every unnecessary delay, whether caused by red tape or inadequate provision, increases the dangers to the mother. But some abortions cannot be done until late: sometimes the mother hesitates too long, and sometimes where there is a likelihood that the child will be born gravely handicapped the tests cannot be completed until the pregnancy is well advanced. Amniocentesis, for instance, does not at present produce results until the 20th week or even later.

These problems have been apparent for years, but those who were broadly satisfied with the 1967 Abortion Act have been reluctant to confront them. The Lane report of 1974 argued persuasively that the limit should come down to 24 weeks, but nothing was done. It is obvious why: opponents of abortion have kept the Act constantly under attack, and

those who feared the consequences of fresh restrictions were anxious to avoid legislation which their opponents might succeed in amending restrictively.

Now there are signs that authorities in the profession who take a liberal view of abortion may be ready to accept that the law needs to be changed. They are right, for every advance in obstetric technique makes the present position less tenable.

There is still sharp debate over what the new time-limit should be. At what point should the interests of a healthy developing child be given weight against those of a mother, possibly confused and frightened, who delays making up her mind? The main argument is between 22 weeks and 24: the former would rule out almost all risk of error, while the latter would leave more time for abnormality tests. But tests need not be a central issue. Even Mr John Corrie's defeated amendment Bill of 1979, which proposed a very low 20-week limit, made an exception for cases of substantial risk of serious handicap in the child or of serious physical or mental harm to the mother. A Bill confined to the time limit issue, with provision for exceptions of this kind, is desirable and would deserve support from constructive voices on both sides of the abortion controversy.

PROTECTING FREE MARKETS

It is a central tenet of the present Government's philosophy to encourage greater freedom for individual action and market forces within a framework of laws laid down by Parliament to set the rules of the game.

Although this philosophy has expressed itself more in words than action when it comes to individuals taking greater control of the investment of their capital, it is beginning to have important effects in changing the character of the investment industry. The abolition of exchange controls, measures to encourage individual investment in small businesses and the deal between Mr Cecil Parkinson and Sir Nicholas Goodison for the reform of the Stock Exchange are all leading to new types of financial market and investment, and new kinds of dealers and salesmen to go with them. Any move to allow individuals greater control over their pension arrangements would rapidly accelerate this trend.

As a result, the review of investor protection, presented to Parliament by Mr Parkinson's successor yesterday, now has much greater general significance than when it was commissioned from Professor Laurence Gower thirty months ago in the wake of a series of spectacular failures of investment firms operating in new areas, such as commodity speculation, which were not covered by existing law.

Professor Gower, a solicitor of wide practical experience as well as scholarship, has risen fully to this barely foreseen task and, among a mass of detailed recommendations, has proposed

a wholly new and consistent framework for regulating anyone from a doorstep insurance salesman to an international bond dealer.

The main issue is whether protection and reform should be imposed and operated by the state, or whether it can be left to the various different trades to regulate themselves, in their own interest, to maintain orderly markets and retain the confidence of the public.

Proponents of a Government body to control the securities and investment business have long been hampered by the reputation of America's Securities and Exchange Commission for legalistic bureaucracy and mountains of paperwork, even though that picture is now out of date. Supporters of self-regulation have to explain away the inward-looking complacency of the former council of Lloyd's.

Professor Gower has cut through this argument. Instead, he puts forward the concept of supervised self-regulation; a network of statutory-based self-regulating bodies, coordinated through the voluntary Council for the Securities Industry and supervised by the Department of Trade and Industry. He quotes the recent history of the Stock Exchange, whose reforms are supervised both by the Bank of England through the CSI and by the Trade Secretary as a model for the structure he has in mind.

That is a happy example, because the deal arranged to exempt the Stock Exchange from the rigours of Government control over restrictive practices, which was dubious in principle,

seems to be working out well in practice.

Even so, the all-embracing Investor Protection Act proposed by Professor Gower has two major drawbacks.

His guideline that regulation "should be no greater than is necessary to protect reasonable people from being made fools of" leads him to relax some existing laws, for instance on unit trusts, but the principle of universality requires the official registration (in effect licensing) of many groups of people who have hitherto operated freely under the law. More importantly, it will make it harder for people to set up in businesses such as insurance-broking and sales, which have attracted many an unemployed man in the past two years.

It is also doubtful whether many of the trades on the fringe of the investment business are capable of setting up self-regulating organizations worthy of the name. In these cases, the Department of Trade will have to engage in much more detailed day-to-day regulation itself.

There can be no perfect system self-regulation, just as there can be no perfect protection for the consumer that does not send the very people who need regulating to the fringes. However, the Gower formula is a judicious and carefully worked out compromise. It should not be put on a shelf but implemented. Without it, the tide of scandals will continue and the Government strategy to encourage investment by individuals will be undermined.

Setting limits on late abortions

From Lord Robertson of Oakridge

Sir, I welcome the report by your Social Services Correspondent (January 17) that the joint subcommittee of the British Paediatric Association and the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists is considering recommending support for moves to reduce the numbers of late abortions.

However, your Correspondent is not quite correct in saying that "the 28-week limit was set in the Abortion Act 1967". The limit of late abortions was set in the Infant Life Preservation Act 1929, which says that any person who causes a child which is "capable of being born alive" to die is guilty of the felony of child destruction, except where the act is done in good faith to save the life of the mother.

The Act then goes on to say that, if the woman had been pregnant "for a period of 28 weeks or more", then this is "prima facie proof" that the child was capable of being born alive.

Two points need to be emphasized. Firstly, the 1929 Act is concerned with the capability of being born alive and not the capability to survive. Secondly, what the 1929 Act does not say is that, before the completion of 28 weeks of pregnancy, a child cannot be capable of being born alive.

On the contrary, it is clear that some babies are now being born alive before 28 weeks (and happily, because of modern medical science and skills, many of them survive).

I very much doubt, therefore, whether a change in the law is needed. What would be helpful, rather, would be an assurance from the medical profession that every effort is being made to avoid the abortion of babies that are capable of being born alive, whether or not the twenty-eighth week of pregnancy has been completed.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERTSON OF OAKRIDGE,
House of Lords,
January 18.

Industrial survival

From Mr A. Prince

Sir, I cannot comment on the date of the Crucifixion, but I would like to add a supporting voice from industry to the response Dr Humphreys (January 10) made to Enoch Powell's second question (January 5).

Although Dr Humphreys rose to the bait of a loaded question he does well to warn us of the low spend on materials research in British universities. The quality of the work is internationally recognised. It is not carried out in an academic vacuum: we in industry are rapidly learning how to work with universities and much academic research is oriented towards modern technologies on which our industrial survival depends.

Despite this fact many first-rate research proposals are being left to gather dust for lack of funds. Frustration may transform the dust to dollars or yen and then where shall we be?

Yours faithfully,
A. PRINCE,
Assistant Research Director
(Materials)
GEC Research Laboratories,
Hirst Research Centre,
Wembley,
Middlesex,
January 16

'Survey of London'

From Miss Hermione Hobhouse

Sir, I was delighted to see your leader (January 4) on the importance of retaining the Historic Buildings Division of the Greater London Council, and the folly of dismantling such an important bastion of conservation.

I should, however, like to take issue with your narrow role assigned to the *Survey of London*. It was indeed started by C. R. Ashbee and the London Survey Committee in 1900, with the backing of the young London County Council. Since then it has published more than 40 volumes, but these should be seen not only as "working documents" for planners but as volumes published for the interest and enlightenment of all Londoners concerned with the history of the city's fabric.

During the thirty years' editorship of my predecessor, Dr Sheppard, the *Survey* has developed into an urban history series unparalleled in any other capital city in the world. The staff of *Survey* do in fact aim at "detached scholarship" without any *arrivée pensée*, trying to establish the facts about London's history.

I do not think we should like it to be thought that we aim at a different brand of scholarship from the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments. Naturally, however, we should prefer to continue with the GLC, where our work is one of the many services the council provides for Londoners.

Yours faithfully,
HERMIONE HOBHOUSE,
General Editor, *Survey of London*,
Chesham House,
30 Warwick Street, W1,
January 12.

A battery's life

From Mr Peter Croker

Sir, Mr G. H. Kitchen (January 10) (and other readers) may like to know that, from their introduction, all Philips batteries have been stamped on the base with a "sell-by" date which shows the date up to which the battery will still be at peak freshness.

Yours faithfully,
PETER CROKER,
Marketing Manager (Batteries),
Philips Lighting Division,
PO Box 298,
City House,
420-430 London Road,
Croydon,
Surrey,
January 13.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Taking a divided view of the rates

From Mr A. F. Wigram

Sir, As an ex-member of the Westminster City Council and managing director of a property company which, directly or indirectly, pays very substantial rates, I think I am in a good position to see both sides of the rate-capping argument and would like to suggest a compromise.

Could not the Government "cap" the business rate, but leave the domestic rate open to the discretion of individual councils? There are three main reasons in support of this idea.

First, domestic ratepayers have a vote while companies or partnerships paying business rates do not.

Second, business rates are a deductible expense from company or partnership profits whereas domestic rates are not tax-deductible; consequently it can be argued that central Government is in any case a substantial business ratepayer through corporation tax lost.

Third, business and domestic rates are in any case subject to differentiation and rebates so that a change in the level of tax levied would not be a departure from existing tradition.

I believe I am right in saying that domestic rates contribute only about 20 per cent of the total rates levied so the Government's aim of controlling domestic expenditure would be substantially achieved whilst, at the same time, freedom of discretion would be preserved in the most sensitive area for "local authorities".

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY WIGRAM,
6 Queen Street,
Mayfair, W1,
January 11.

From Sir John Grugeon

Sir, I would like to take issue with the report in *The Times* of January 11. The Association of County Councils, although under Conservative control, is far from dominated by them; Mr Lovell's statement that the voting was 95 to two in opposition to the Government's rate capping does not reveal the full picture.

There are 45 member counties of the association of which 22 are controlled by Conservatives, 12 Labour, one Liberal, four Independent, and six no overall control. County representation is in direct proportion to population and there are currently 172 members, of whom 99 are Tory, 52 Labour and 21 others.

Some members abstained at the meeting of the executive and several members of Kent, North Yorkshire, Norfolk and West Sussex were in support of Mr Patrick Jenkin's move to curb excessive and unwarranted expenditure.

What Mr Lovell has failed to recognise is the Conservative pledge to the electorate made in the manifesto of June 9 and if, as he claims, he and his fellow members are in touch with the grass roots they are sadly wrong.

Peace studies

From Mr John McConnell

Sir, Roger Scruton in his article (January 3) makes assumptions about peace education and the motives of those who teach it which indicate lack of understanding.

Mr Scruton is right in that peace education does have an underlying value, but it is not propagandist as he suggests. The most basic aim, which I'm sure most peace educators would share, is quite simply that young people learn to respond to conflict creatively rather than have habitual recourse to gut reaction, or naive idealism.

The claim that those advocating peace studies are bound to be committed disarmers glosses over the variety of organizations involved and impugns the professionalism of teachers running such courses quite unfairly.

The Society of Friends appointed a peace education officer in 1982, so have the Catholic pacifist organization Pax Christi and the Peace Pledge Union. However, teachers are able to avail themselves of the services of the Government-funded British Atlantic Committee, which has recently produced *A Syllabus in Peace and Conflict Studies*.

The Disarmament and Arms Control Unit of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office circulates material, which essentially supports the Government's viewpoint, to schools and the Ministry of Defence has produced two films which are publicized and distributed on a large scale free of charge to schools.

There is a growing list of good resource literature developed by educationalists and promoted by long-established publishers. There is thus a wide variety of material for teachers to use in presenting the issues in a balanced way. This is quite in keeping with the best traditions of education in Britain.

Restoring the marbles

From Mr Graham Binns and Mrs Eleni Cubitt

Sir, A number of questions are raised by your editorial on the Parthenon marbles ("The expansive Mr Kinnoch", January 7).

First, the notion that the return of the marbles would "be bound to set a spectacular precedent". The British Committee does, in fact, regard with sympathy the principle of restitution of cultural objects that are central to the cultural heritage and identity of the nation from which they were taken.

This principle, however, in no way entails what you rather hysterically anticipate as "a general and progressive tendency to send home the masterpieces of every nation". It is regrettable that *The Times* should adopt this sort of tone and thus fall into the very trap of "excesses of rhetoric and eyewitness" that it says it fears.

The claim for the Parthenon

My experience as a former leader of the association leads me to believe that he and many of his senior members have failed to recognise that the vast majority of the population who understand the present rating system are totally opposed to the excessive provision of services without a proven need.

While the posture of these so-called grassroots representatives leaves much to be desired, many will shelter behind "accountability to the ratepayers". Surely by capping the rates we are showing true accountability to the electorate by honouring an election pledge.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN D. GRUGEON,
Sand Pent,
Kent,
January 12.

From Councillor David Conway

Sir, A Tory backbencher on a Tory council, I have read with interest letters and articles in your paper on the Government's "rate-capping" proposals. Setting aside the constitutional arguments, there is one aspect of political tactics which does not appear to have been considered.

It has been traditionally a strong argument for the Conservatives in local government elections that we would be careful spenders and keep any rate rises to a minimum. When elected, Tory authorities - of which I do not hesitate to advance my own as a shining example - have fulfilled these promises.

However, what will be the value of such pledges if the Minister has the unrestricted powers of intervention contained in the current proposals? The floating voter may lose a strong incentive to vote Conservative if he votes in some brand of socialism and they proceed to splash out, why, the Minister will step in, of course!

I cannot believe that Cabinet ministers have overlooked this, so I can only conclude that they do not greatly care, on the grounds that the proposals are just another step in the continuing process of central control of local affairs. Ultimately, perhaps, local authorities will be reduced to mere spending agents, like the district health authorities in the NHS.

But it may perhaps give food for thought to backbench MPs, particularly those of my own party whose seats were Labour in the not-too-distant past - in Enfield, two out of the three fall into this category.

The possible dilution, by the proposals, of the local power base that assisted them in getting elected may prove a handicap to them in years to come.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID CONWAY,
London Borough of Enfield,
Members' Room,
PO Box No 50,
Civic Centre,
Silver Street,
Enfield,
Middlesex,
December 14.

including many perspectives rather than just one or none at all.

Mr Scruton assumes that peace education has the essentially political aim of indoctrinating children in a particular viewpoint. This may be true in a tiny minority of cases but in no way represents the work done by most teachers. Rather it is the very natural and proper concern of teachers to educate young people about a subject which is of global importance and intense public debate.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN MCCONNELL,
Peace Education Officer,
Quaker Peace & Service,
Friends House,
Euston Road, NW1,
January 4.

From Dr John Herbert

Sir, Whereas you in England are having discussions about peace studies in schools, here in Wales we have more profound problems. Our language has survived the conquest by Norman bandits and the Sassenach assumption of effortless superiority.

We have two words for "peace" in our native tongue. *Heddwch* describes the uneasy cessation of physical conflict with the English (which continues for brief periods in the annual *rhylf* at Twickenham and the Arms Park). But nowadays in Wales, as befits a nation of preachers and teachers, we are more thoughtfully engaged in pursuing *tangneffedd*, that spiritual peace enjoyed in heaven where all discussion is in Latin, but all the hymns are sung in Welsh.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN HERBERT,
Llwydlynn High School,
Nash Road,
Newport,
Gwent,
January 10.

marbles is further differentiated from other claims by the fact, repeatedly stressed, that these sculptures were once an integral part of one of the greatest monuments of antiquity, from which they were forcibly removed. The view of modern archaeological science, too, is that such works are best studied in close proximity to the monuments they formerly completed.

Furthermore, to say that Britain's legal title to the marbles is "beyond serious dispute" is simply untrue. It is seriously disputed by the Greek Government, and this indeed is one of the grounds of the official request for their return.

There is, Sir, only one honourable course of action for the British Government to take.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM BINNS,
Acting Chairman,
ELENI CUBITT, Secretary,
The British Committee for the Restoration of the Parthenon Marbles,
13a Hillgate Street, W8,
January 10.

Risk to records from data Bill

From Mr A. Sandison

Sir, Dr Currie's admirable letter (January 10) draws attention to the risks to future historical records from certain provisions in the Data Protection Bill.

The important point for historians, is that their most valuable data come from records which are compiled with no thought of history in mind. Every record is thus potentially of historical value. It is only some time after its compilation that, with manual files, questions of disposal arise and advice of archivists and historians is obtained.

Computer files are all too easily destroyed, and with the Bill as now worded future historians may be starved of material. All that is needed is a clause saying that nothing in the Bill shall prevent the retention for historical purposes of at least one copy in any appropriate form of records which, but for the Bill, would previously have been preserved.

This is but one of many examples in the Bill of wording which is quite inappropriate to the realities of modern computer technology. The crucial definition of "data" is entirely otiose, because everything in print can already be read and processed by computer. Your same issue reports similar developments for the spoken word.

In a letter to me the Home Office have admitted that anyone possessing a bundle of paid cheques will (with present wording) be required to register as a data user because he controls the contents and use of a collection of data sorted automatically by reference to living individuals! Most owners of computer printout will be data users on similar grounds. And wording to achieve that has passed the Lords twice, despite the fact that in the same letter the Home Office say they have been aware of the point for about a year!

There are very major issues here. How can the parliamentary procedures be revised to bring appropriate technical expertise into all the stages of drafting new legislation before it is presented for first reading? Yours faithfully,
A. SANDISON,
93 Ridgmont Gardens, WC1,
January 10.

Removal of glands

From Mr Barry Slade

Sir, I read with some interest but mostly dismay your article (January 7) on the selling of pituitary glands by mortuary staff. It stated that the pituitary glands are sold "for medical research". It should have read "for therapeutic purposes".

The pituitary glands, which are removed with the permission of the next of kin or of the coroner and procedures imposed by the Human Tissue Act (1961), are collected periodically by the staff of the National Pituitary Collection Service at the Children's Hospital, Sheffield. The human growth hormone is extracted from these glands (which have been frozen) and is then used to treat children suffering from a deficiency in normal growth activity.

This enables them to attain normal height. To continue normal growth each child requires the prepared extract from 1½ pituitary glands every week during the growth period.

It is true that the NPS pays 25p for glands collected in public mortuaries (staff in NHS mortuaries collect them as a service free of charge). But it would be a pity if allegations that these arrangements are "a fiddle" created public mistrust for a service which is of great value to children with a deficiency in growth hormone.

Yours faithfully,
BARRY SLADE,
3 Merfield Farm Cottages,
Merfield Road,
Plymouth, Devon.

Cold comfort

From Mr Andrew Stroud

Sir, Charles McKean's thoughts on "The house of 1994" ("Saturday", January 7) will surely have sent a shiver down the spine of any reader familiar with some of the ill-fated attempts to introduce radical change into housebuilding over the past 50 years.

Mr McKean points out that the lifestyle of the 1994 family will militate against "high tech" and call for a heavier heat-retaining structure, yet he goes on to describe lightweight building methods and materials (including compressed straw bales) which are effectively unknown and untried in housing construction in the United Kingdom.

While current proven housebuilding methods can certainly be further refined, not least to meet the changing needs of future homeowners, visions of a brave new world must not be allowed to obscure the hard-learned lessons of the past.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW STROUD,
Cement and Concrete Association,
52 Grosvenor Gardens, SW1.

Banned but delivered

From Dr D. B. Morgan-Williams

Sir, I have just attempted to deliver a letter to your neighbour, the Editor of *The Sunday Times*. Without any explanation a picket barred me from delivering the envelope.

The picket also told me that they did not care what I did with my letter. Even if I put a stamp on it they would prevent the Post Office from delivering it.

Is this legal? Yours truly,
D. B. MORGAN-WILLIAMS,
Whitlock,
Beech Close,
Stratford-on-Avon, Warwickshire,
January 18.

THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Midland troubleshooter flies to California

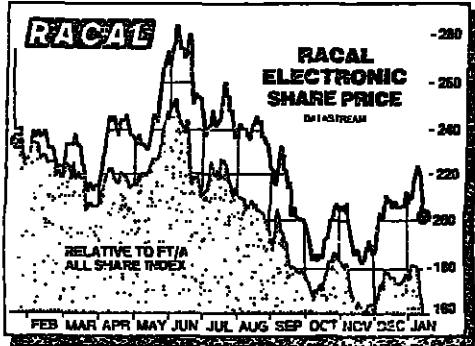
Decisive action by the Midland Bank was clearly called for in the wake of calamities at its 57 per cent owned Californian banking subsidiary Crocker National Corporation. Mr John Harris, chief executive of Midland Bank International, is being put in to bolster Crocker's management - a move that should be as welcome in the United States as it will be here among Midland's shareholders and depositors.

Mr Harris is becoming senior vice chairman and a director of Crocker. This will make him number two in the organization below the incumbent chairman and chief executive Mr John Place. Mr Harris is not replacing anybody; his position is a new one, no heads will roll and those baying for blood may be disappointed.

At 49, Mr Harris has risen rapidly in the Midland to head the international side. A determined and thoughtful man, he faces a tough task in trying to sort out Crocker and restore its profitability to an adequate level after a year which saw Crocker tumbling into a net loss of \$10.4m after having made a special provision against property loans of \$107m.

The only people surprised by Crocker's fall from grace appear to have been the Midland board. The published figures on reserves, bad debt experience and non-performing loans all pointed one way - down. Moreover, question marks still remain over the relationship between Midland and Crocker. The original acquisition agreement tied Midland's hands and left Crocker free to operate autonomously (and as it proved riskily with Midland's capital) and although that position has now changed, it is not obvious just how much influence Midland can exert in a major American bank. At some stage presumably it would make sense to try to buy out the minority holding in Crocker although the Midland can ill afford to do so at the moment.

Mr Harris's appointment to Crocker will stretch the Midland's management resources. The yawning gap on the international side should be filled quickly.



Racal looks to the future

Look beyond this year, that was yesterday's message from Sir Ernest Harrison as he set about, for him, the unaccustomed task of explaining a lacklustre performance by Racal electronics. The exciting sparks which have been a feature of Racal performances will be missing this year. At the interim stage pretax profits advanced a tiny 2.5 per cent to £48,733,000. For the full year (to end-March) Sir Ernest said growth will be modest.

The current year inevitably has been one of consolidation, the sort which

afflicts most growth orientated business where energies and resources have been expended on operations which will make important contributions in the future. Problems at Racal-Milgo offshoot in Miami have also taken their toll. Sir Ernest, who has installed new management at R-M, was scathing about the old guard. It has lost touch with detail "and if you lose touch with detail, problems follow - and they did". They have been resolved and Miami's contribution in 1983-1984 will be 40 per cent better.

A sharp and unquantified shortfall in profits expected from tactical radio has blunted Racal's edge and here the recovery may not be as quick. Strategic radio however is beginning to make strides. The star performer, still rising is defence radar, proving the value of acquiring Decad. The new financial year will start with orders of £190m.

Cellular (cordless) radio is one area which should generate exceptional growth although it will make losses for a few years (£3m next year, £12m the following year and £8m in 1985-1986). Then it is expected to make profits in Britain alone, of £37m before the end of the decade.

Some of yesterday's gathering at the Royal Lancaster Hotel were a little miffed that the Racal management was not quite as forthcoming as it has been in the past. Even so, when the action starts again next year, £150m seems a feasible result.

3i opens to public view

For a body which has £3 billion invested in British companies of every size, 3i (formerly Investors in Industry) has succeeded remarkably in keeping out of the public eye. That may be changing. As the recovery proceeds, as the balance of the economy tilts further away from manufacturing industry toward services and the financial sector, and as institutions become more conscious of their investment role, 3i is tempted not only to expand, but to be seen more often doing it.

The group's skills and reputation rest on two central pillars: the ability to provide a much wider range of services, from technical advice to equity investment, than almost all merchant banks and insurance companies offer; and a well-developed capacity to take risks, which is underwritten by a gearing ratio of little more than four to one. These attributes have enabled 3i to raise money at very fine rates. It is a licensed deposit taker, a significant operator in the money market, and a respected name in the Euromarkets.

It is possible for 3i to increase its own equity capital, but with equity and reserves standing at around £1 billion that should not be necessary, not least in the eyes of the shareholding banks. The argument points, therefore, toward a modest increase in gearing.

At the same time, 3i can be expected to market its services more publicly. That in itself is a welcome development. A body first conceived in 1944 by the Bank of England as an instrument for rebuilding post-war British industry should be better known by now. A group with 3i's status and experience ought also to have contributed more to the public debate about how much and what kind of investment Britain needs. It is not too late to start.

Gower seeks stiffer rules, but emphasis on self-regulation

By Philip Robinson

Plans for tougher rules to govern Britain's investment advisers were unveiled yesterday by Professor Laurence 'Jim' Gower to a City establishment which broadly applauded his ideas for the policing of financial markets.

The Council for the Securities Industry (CSI) said it was encouraged by the amount of self-regulation suggested by Professor Gower, the Stock Exchange said the latest report is preferable to initial thoughts which would have given a government department power to intervene in the rule-making of self-regulatory agencies.

Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, said: "Professor Gower is to be congratulated on providing us with a comprehensive survey and a coherent set of proposals... his self-regulation within a framework of statutory supervision may well be a way forward."

Mr Peter Shore, Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, said he welcomed Professor Gower's clear acceptance of the need for legislation to give greater protection to investors.

"We need an end to the

| Registration of prospectuses | | 1978 | 1979 | 1980 | 1981 | 1982 | Total |
|---|--|------|------|------|------|------|-------|
| a. Total no. of registered prospectuses | | 245 | 249 | 321 | 368 | 345 | 1,528 |
| b. No. where securities not listed or on USM | | 72 | 81 | 112 | 94 | 94 | 435 |
| c. No. of (b) which were of securities of GB companies | | 41 | 48 | 58 | 46 | 38 | 231 |
| d. No. of (b) which were of securities of foreign companies | | 31 | 33 | 54 | 48 | 56 | 222 |

present muddle as well as the recurring scandals which do so much damage both to individual investors and public confidence," he said.

Professor Gower's proposals are based on a simple premise: anyone involved in the investment business will be governed either by a self-regulatory body recognized as such by the Department of Trade and Industry, or by the department itself.

Originally, Professor Gower wanted the City's self-regulation system divided into four agencies membership of whom would be defined by business undertakings rather than profession.

However there has been City resistance to this and he now accepts that the methods of control should be through

existing self-regulatory bodies and those yet to be formed through a strengthened CSI which would be responsible to the Department of Trade and Industry. This would be done through a new legislation, the Investor Protection Act.

Compensation funds similar to that operated by the Stock Exchange will be required if self-regulatory bodies are to be recognized as such.

Professor Gower's controversial proposal is to extend to the unit trusts the facility to "cold call" effectively the door-to-door selling now done by life insurance companies.

He would like to ban cold calling altogether, but, he said, the two forms of investment are now inextricably linked. In any case his extension would be to formalize what happens.

He hoped a recommendation that both the Unit Trust Association (UTA) and the Life Offices Association (LOA) draw up code of conduct for salesmen would remove the worst abuses.

A spokesman for the LOA said the report would allow it to press on with a code of conduct on which a discussion paper went out last October.

Professor Gower also recommends the CSI become the authority for vetting prospectuses for securities not intended to be listed on the in Stock Exchange or the unlisted Securities Market.

In five years the proportion of prospectuses not seeking a listing on either rose to almost 30 per cent of the total.

Instead they are often traded on an over-the-counter market where the dealer is the issuing house, underwriter and market-maker. This is regarded by Professor Gower as a potentially dangerous practice. His idea is for the CSI to make rules covering these operations.

Professor Gower's register of investment advisers will include any publisher or financial journalist involved in tipping shares.

Leading article, page 11
Two tiers, page 15

Index up to 821 record

The stock market had its best session in more than eight months yesterday, as the FT Index leapt 14.1 to a fresh record of 821.2.

Renewed enthusiasm by investors caught many jobbers on the hop and finally dispelled suggestions that the market had been overbought. It was estimated that more than £2,000m had been added to share values before the close of business last night in one of the busiest days of trading the market has experienced in a long time.

Dealers are now openly talking of the index reaching 1,000 this year if this momentum can be maintained.

The gilt market was more subdued, failing to hold onto earlier gains of nearly 50p. At the longer end of the market, rises were restricted to 25p. But applications for the new "tap" Treasury Convertible, 10 per cent, 1990, were oversubscribed. Investors who applied for stock above the 25p tender price have been allotted stock in full, as have those who applied for up to £500,000 of stock. But applications of up to £1m will receive only £500,000, while those applying for more than £1m will receive about 46.09 per cent of that figure.

Market report, page 14

PSBR over target for year

By Frances Williams
Economics Correspondent

The public sector borrowed £10.1 billion in the first months of 1983-1984 financial year, slightly more than the Government's revised £10 billion target for the full year announced in November. But Government revenues commonly exceed spending in the first quarter each year, the main tax-gathering season, raising the possibility that the final outcome may undershoot the target.

In addition there are encouraging signs that the Government's own spending, which has been racing ahead of plans, may now be coming under control. The public sector borrowing requirement in December was £1.3 billion, much in line with market expectations, according to Treasury figures published yesterday. So far this financial year state borrowing is running some £2.5 billion higher than in the same period in 1982-1983, when the final PSBR outcome was £9.2 billion.

But the Treasury is confident that the massive spending spree by government departments at the end of the last financial year will not be repeated this time. Officials believe that the Chancellor's July measures, which knocked £500m off permitted spending and increased planned asset sales by a further £300m, are now biting.

PUBLIC SECTOR BORROWING REQUIREMENT £m, not seasonally adjusted

| | central govt | general govt | PSBR |
|---------|--------------|--------------|--------|
| 1979-80 | 4,242 | 10,366 | 9,919 |
| 1980-81 | 9,173 | 13,817 | 13,187 |
| 1981-82 | 6,481 | 8,740 | 7,785 |
| 1982-83 | 7,177 | 10,313 | 9,184 |
| 1983-84 | 3,745 | 4,536 | 3,812 |
| Q3 | 2,849 | 3,066 | 3,244 |
| Q4 | 2,728 | 2,513 | 3,081 |
| Oct | 185 | 181 | 67 |
| Nov | 1,816 | 1,314 | 1,692 |
| Dec | 1,017 | 1,360 | 1,302 |

*Central and local government
Source: Treasury



Eagle into BAT: Mr Patrick Sheehy (left) and Sir Denis Mountain yesterday (Photograph: Tony Lewis)

BAT completes record £966m Eagle takeover

By Andrew Cornelius

BAT Industries successfully concluded its record £966m takeover bid for Eagle Star Holdings, Britain's sixth largest insurer, yesterday afternoon.

Mr Patrick Sheehy, chairman of BAT, and Sir Denis Mountain, chairman of Eagle Star, marked the end of the fierce battle for control with a symbolic handshake at Eagle's headquarters in Threadneedle Street in the City of London.

Sir Denis and the existing Eagle management will continue to run the company under the takeover terms struck with BAT.

Report urges tougher tax powers

By Jonathan Davis
Financial Correspondent

There is no widespread avoidance or evasion of the main taxes on capital transfer, property and oil, a report by the Government-appointed Keith Committee on Taxation concluded yesterday.

Despite this, it nevertheless recommends heavier penalties for offenders and greater powers of search and enforcement for the Inland Revenue in the four areas covered by the report.

These are Petroleum Revenue Tax, Capital Transfer Tax, Development Land Tax and the various forms of stamp duty. Together, they account for more than £6,000m a year of government revenues.

In general, compliance with all four is good, the committee - chaired by Lord Keith of Kinkel - declares.

Justifying why it feels obliged to make 73 recommendations for change, the committee says that it is anxious to bring penalties and the Inland Revenue's enforcement powers into line with its proposals last year for changes in the field of income and capital gains tax.

In particular, it proposes extending and formalizing the Inland Revenue's powers to search premises in pursuit of tax fraud, and says penalties for tax offences should be linked to the sums of money at issue rather set at arbitrary levels.

On capital transfer tax (CTT), the committee says that in cases of fraud or wilful default, the Inland Revenue should be able to claim unpaid tax for a period of up to 20 years.

The report discloses that out of total CTT payments of £500m last year, only £37m related to transfers of capital made in people's lifetimes, as opposed to on death.

In the six years since the tax was introduced, the Inland Revenue has only succeeded in raising £10,100 in penalties.

Committee on Enforcement Powers of the Revenue Department, Report, Vol Three, Cmd 9120, HMSO (£9.95).

NEWS IN BRIEF

New index is named SE 100

The London International Financial Futures Exchange has advanced in drawing up two new contracts, a stock index futures contract and a US Treasury bond futures contract, which could be launched in the spring.

The new index is an official Stock Exchange construct and will be called the SE 100. As it currently stands, the draft contract calls for a stock index of 100 representative companies which, unlike existing FT indices, would be up dated electronically every minute.

The 100 companies will all have large capitalizations, will be fully listed British companies, and will be selected by an independent panel representing a wide spectrum of participants in the British equity market.

Shares on the New York Stock Exchange started to slide in early trading after first making modest gains. The Dow Jones industrial average was down more than two points at about 1269.

News Corporation's offering of 6 1/2 per cent 10-year bonds on the Swiss Capital Market was highly successful and will be the first public issue by a foreign borrower in Switzerland to Sw Fr an amount surpassing Sw Fr 100m, according to a source involved with the offering.

Rediffusion Simulation yesterday made a significant gain in the world market for flight simulators, which has seen orders from commercial airlines halved in the past two years.

The British company signed a \$9m deal to update a US Airforce E-3A Sentry early warning aircraft simulator.

Penazzoli said it is prepared to raise its tender offer for Getty to £125 a share, matching Texaco's bid - the record-breaking \$11 billion offer.

Dixor shareholders again oppose Henara offer

By Jonathan Clare

Two dissident shareholders in Dixor-Strand have again written to fellow shareholders to reinforce their claim that the 14p offer from Henara is inadequate.

Mr Anthony Laker and Mr Daniel Levy claim they have the support of the substantial minority of Dixor shareholders who have not accepted the Henara offer but acknowledge that the chances of raising the bid are slim.

But they do have the backing of influential shareholders including Mr Michael Dinsmore, a former Dixor director, who originally formed a consortium.

Acceptances totalled 87 per cent, but this includes the 80 per cent of share owned by Mr Lerner and further 1 per cent held by Mr Norman Davis, Dixor's chairman. Yesterday Mr Levy claimed that if they had been able to get their

arguments across earlier Henara would not have received any acceptance from other shareholders.

He argues that the 15p all share offer - which has subsequently fallen to 14p because Henara's share price has fallen - is lower than the market price had been in 2 1/2 years. He and his fellow dissidents want more information on how the offer price was worked out after the shares were suspended last October at 32p.

Mr Lerner says the offer will not be increased and that the original circular that Mr Levy and Mr Laker sent to shareholders contained several errors.

The two admit in yesterday's letter to making "arithmetic errors" but say that does not alter the substance of the complaint.

Trafalgar House may not renew bid for P&O

By Michael Clark

Trafalgar House will not be forced into renewing its £290m contested bid for Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation even if the Monopolies Commission gives the go-ahead when it is due to report next month.

Mr Nigel Brookes, chairman of Trafalgar, told shareholders at yesterday's Annual Meeting: "We have not made up our minds about P & O and we have no commitment to proceed or withdraw."

Mr Brookes also denied suggestions that Trafalgar was

running short of cash and would soon be calling on shareholders for more. He said: "Borrowings in December totalled £160m. I do not regard that as an uncomfortable level."

But he warned that work on the replacement for the Atlantic Conveyor, lost in the South Atlantic, was continuing to fall behind schedule. British Shipbuilders had been up to six months late, but this may have grown to eight months. "We are very disappointed and inconvenienced," Mr Brookes added.

Mr Smith, aged 54, replaces Commodore's founder, Mr Jack Tramiel, who only last week saw his company announce a record \$1 billion sales figure for 1983.

In a statement yesterday Mr Tramiel said that personal reasons caused his departure, but there have been rumblings for some time, with shareholders becoming increasingly uneasy at his management style.

Despite their unease, Tramiel has managed to push his company forward, while competitors floundered, and in some cases, disappeared. In the past year, CBM has seized an increasingly large share of the market, particularly in the fast-growing home area.

Their Commodore 64 machine, voted Home Computer of the Year, has sold almost a quarter of a million units since its launch last Spring.

The company must now set its sights on a new range of machines, for apart from the launch of an attractive (if expensive) portable version of the 64, it is now lagging behind in the competitive field of small business micros.

Commodore appoints new chief

By Geoffrey Ellis

Speculation on the future direction of Commodore International, the American computer company, follows yesterday's news of the appointment of a new president and chief executive. Mr Marshall F Smith takes up the post next month, moving from Thyssen-Bornemisza Inc. where he was president and chief executive.

Mr Smith, aged 54, replaces Commodore's founder, Mr Jack Tramiel, who only last week saw his company announce a record \$1 billion sales figure for 1983.

In a statement yesterday Mr Tramiel said that personal reasons caused his departure, but there have been rumblings for some time, with shareholders becoming increasingly uneasy at his management style.

Despite their unease, Tramiel has managed to push his company forward, while competitors floundered, and in some cases, disappeared. In the past year, CBM has seized an increasingly large share of the market, particularly in the fast-growing home area.

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The company must now set its sights on a new range of machines, for apart from the launch of an attractive (if expensive) portable version of the 64, it is now lagging behind in the competitive field of small business micros.

The underlying increase in

Factory earnings outstrip pay deals

By Our Economics Correspondent

Earnings in manufacturing industry are rising nearly twice as fast as basic pay deals, but rapid improvements in productivity have so far cushioned the impact on companies' wage costs at prices.

The Department of Employment said yesterday that manufacturing earnings rose by an underlying 9.75 per cent in the 12 months to November, while pay settlements are averaging just over 5 per cent, slightly above the rate of inflation.

The difference results mainly from the pickup in manufacturing output over the year. This has boosted working hours - more overtime and less short time - by 3.19 million hours a week, adding 1.25 per cent to the yearly rise in earnings. And it has put more cash into pay packets by way of productivity-related payments and bonuses.

The higher earnings have been largely offset by big gains in productivity. Wage costs per unit of output in the three months to November were only 3.7 per cent higher than a year earlier, compared with an annual rise of 6.2 per cent in the same period in 1982.

Nevertheless the growing element of "wage drift" between basic settlements and earnings is bound to cause some unease in Whitehall. Productivity growth is expected to slow in the coming year, which will push up industry's costs and threaten the Government's hopes for lower inflation unless the rise in earnings also moderates.

The underlying increase in

earnings for the economy as a whole was 7.75 per cent in the year to November, unchanged since the pay round began last August, and up from 7.5 per cent in the four previous months. Increased working hours accounted for 0.75 per cent.

The Confederation of British Industry said yesterday that 75 per cent of pay deals in manufacturing since August were lower than a year earlier.

But workers are clearly reluctant to take pay rises below the level of inflation of around 5 per cent. Over the past year they have enjoyed a boost to living standards of nearly 4 per cent as earnings have outstripped higher prices and taxes. This has been a key factor behind the consumer boom.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 821.2 up 14.1
FT Gilt 82.23 down 0.04
FT All Share 497.74 up 6.35
Bargains: 27.779
Datastream USM Leaders Index: 102.71 up 1.59
New York Dow Jones Industrial Average: 1272.40 up 0.94
Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 10,100.23 down 55.34
Hongkong Hang Seng Index: 1018.07 up 28.35

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE

Sterling \$1.4130 up 20pts
Index 82.0 down 0.3
DM 3.9700 up 50pts
FF 12.195 up 0.02
Yen 330.50 down 0.5

Bullion index 131.7 up 0.3
DM 2.8055 down 35pts

NEW YORK LATEST

Sterling \$1.4125
Dollar DM 2.8075
INTERNATIONAL
ECU £0.569060
SDR £0.727835

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 9
Finance houses base rate 9 1/2
Discount market loans week fixed 9 1/8-9
3 month interbank 9 1/8-9 1/8
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 9 1/16-9 1/8
3 month DM 6 1/16-5 1/8
3 month FF 13 1/2-13 1/4
US rates:
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9 3/16
Treasury long bond 102 1/2-22

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$368.25 pm \$368.75
close \$368.75-\$369.50 (£261-261.50)
New York latest:
Kruggerand (per coin):
\$380-381.5 (£269-270)
Sovereigns (new):
\$86.50-\$87.50 (£61.25-£62)
*Excludes VAT

AVERAGE EARNINGS

| Whole economy, seasonally adjusted | | Index | | % change | |
|------------------------------------|-------|----------------|---------|----------|---------|
| | | Jan 1980 = 100 | on year | year | on year |
| 1982 | | | | | |
| Oct | 139.8 | 7.4 | 8% | | |
| Nov | 141.7 | 8.3 | 8% | | |
| Dec | 141.8 | 7.7 | 8% | | |
| 1983 | | | | | |
| Jan | 144.5 | 8.8 | 8% | | |
| Feb | 147.2 | 9.6 | 8% | | |
| Mar | 146.3 | 8.6 | 7% | | |
| Apr | 147.0 | 8.6 | 7% | | |
| May | 148.6 | 8.7 | 7% | | |
| June | 148.2 | 8.2 | 7% | | |
| July | 150.3 | 7.7 | 7% | | |
| Aug | 150.2 | 8.4 | 7% | | |
| Sept | 150.7 | 8.5 | 7% | | |
| Oct | 152.0 | 8.7 | 7% | | |
| Nov | 152.0 | 7.3 | 7% | | |

*Provisional
Source: Department of Employment

earnings for the economy as a whole was 7.7

INVESTORS
NOTEBOOKTHE TIMES
BUSINESS NEWS
EVERY DAY

It now looks as though soaring tea prices could turn into bumper profits at the Brooke Bond Group, famous for its PG Tips brand.

Following a seminar at broker Laurie Millbank, earlier this week rival James Capel has sharply upgraded its earlier forecast. Capel is now looking for pretax profits in the present year of over £70m against last year's figure of £48.8m. This is at least £7m above the nearest market estimate and succeeded in adding 2p to the shares at a new high of 80p.

Capel's figures are similar to the £70m Laurie Millbank is looking for in 1985. Last year Brooke Bond's grocery business accounted for about 60 per cent of profits with the remainder split between its timber and agricultural divisions.

Although the group grows its own tea it has successfully offset rising tea prices on its retail side by blending it with cheaper deliveries bought last year.

The tea market in Britain is worth about £475m annually and Brooke Bond accounts for around 30 per cent of sales. Last night an analyst said that Capel's daring move was certain values.

to lead to them taking a closer look at the company and the expected profits boom from tea. Elsewhere, jobbers were taking another beating as the

Godfrey Davis, the Ford main dealership group which has moved into park homes and property under the guidance of chairman, Mr Cecil Redfern, is now busy casting around for a fourth business leg. In the meantime the existing operations are doing well and are on the road for profits of about £3,500,000 (£2,547,000) in the year to end March. The shares were unchanged at 82p yesterday.

equity market recovered from Tuesday's shakeout with a vengeance. The FT index had its best session in more than eight months rising 14.1 to an all time high of 821.2 as over £2,000m was added to share

MARKET REPORT by Michael Clark

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began, Jan 16. Dealings end, Jan 27. Contango Day, Jan 30. Settlement Day, Feb 6.

Brooke Bond tipped

Gilts failed to hold their best levels, but were pleased with the news the new "tap" Treasury Convertible 10 per cent 1990 had been oversubscribed at the allotment price of £96. Tenders up to £500,000 have been allocated in full, while those of £1m have been allocated £500,000.

Applications above £1m will receive about 46.09 per cent of that applied for. The rest of the market closed with gains of up to 25p.

Shares of the Rank Organisation held steady at 200p - a level which Mr Richard Lake, chairman at broker Grievson Grant describes as a nice breakthrough point. He says the share price should hit 250p within the next four months.

Broker Wood Mackenzie has become a buyer of shares of Unigate which added 8p to the price at 124p yesterday. Wood Mack has just upgraded its forecast for the present year by

21 per cent to £53m and £61m for next year.

The shares have underperformed by 5 per cent in the past month and look set to perform strongly in the coming months, it says.

Meanwhile, there is some

Shares of Allied Irish Bank rose 5p to 188p yesterday despite a line of around 4.5 million shares (3.3 per cent) being placed in the market at about the 140p level. The seller is believed to have been another Irish bank The Ocean Bank.

doubt over whether or not Mr Phil Harris of Harris Conway will do a deal with the Ziff family to take over the asset rich Style shoe business in Bradford.

Harris says things are still on the boil but the Ziff family, which has become used to suitors knocking on the door, is less than enthusiastic. Style's

shares rose 4p to 310p on talk yesterday the two sides had been talking.

Mintix, the private investment company owned by Mr Mark Watson-Mitchell, publisher of USM Newsletter, has increased its stake in Reliant Motor with the purchase of an extra 25,000 shares. Mintix now speaks for a total of 525,000 shares (9.48 per cent) in the three-wheel car manufacturer. Shares of Reliant held steady at 36p on the news - just 2p short of the high.

ICI has topped up its stake in Ellis & Everard with the purchase of an extra 250,000 shares. This added to the 390,000 shares taken up following Ellis & Everard's recent rights issue means ICI now holds a total of 3.5 million shares, amounting to 27.91 per cent. Ellis & Everard closed unchanged at 200p.

Shares of London Prudential Investment Trust continued to hover around the 205p - just 3p short of the high - as London & Manchester Assurance stepped up its holding. It has just bought an extra 185,000 shares and now owns 763,000, or 12.7 per cent.

1983/84 High Low Company Price Ch's Pence % P/E

BRITISH FUNDS

| 1983/84 | High | Low | Company | Price | Ch's | Pence | % | P/E |
|---------|--------|--------|---------|--------|------|-------|------|-------|
| 1983/84 | 110.50 | 109.50 | British | 110.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 10.50 |
| 1983/84 | 109.50 | 108.50 | British | 109.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 10.50 |
| 1983/84 | 108.50 | 107.50 | British | 108.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 10.50 |
| 1983/84 | 107.50 | 106.50 | British | 107.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 10.50 |
| 1983/84 | 106.50 | 105.50 | British | 106.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 10.50 |
| 1983/84 | 105.50 | 104.50 | British | 105.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 10.50 |
| 1983/84 | 104.50 | 103.50 | British | 104.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 10.50 |
| 1983/84 | 103.50 | 102.50 | British | 103.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 10.50 |
| 1983/84 | 102.50 | 101.50 | British | 102.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 10.50 |
| 1983/84 | 101.50 | 100.50 | British | 101.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 10.50 |

1983/84 High Low Company Price Ch's Pence % P/E

| 1983/84 | High | Low | Company | Price | Ch's | Pence | % | P/E |
|---------|--------|--------|---------|--------|------|-------|------|-------|
| 1983/84 | 110.50 | 109.50 | British | 110.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 10.50 |
| 1983/84 | 109.50 | 108.50 | British | 109.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 10.50 |
| 1983/84 | 108.50 | 107.50 | British | 108.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 10.50 |
| 1983/84 | 107.50 | 106.50 | British | 107.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 10.50 |
| 1983/84 | 106.50 | 105.50 | British | 106.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 10.50 |
| 1983/84 | 105.50 | 104.50 | British | 105.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 10.50 |
| 1983/84 | 104.50 | 103.50 | British | 104.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 10.50 |
| 1983/84 | 103.50 | 102.50 | British | 103.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 10.50 |
| 1983/84 | 102.50 | 101.50 | British | 102.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 10.50 |
| 1983/84 | 101.50 | 100.50 | British | 101.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 10.50 |

1983/84 High Low Company Price Ch's Pence % P/E

| 1983/84 | High | Low | Company | Price | Ch's | Pence | % | P/E |
|---------|--------|--------|---------|--------|------|-------|------|-------|
| 1983/84 | 110.50 | 109.50 | British | 110.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 0.50 | 10.50 |
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1983/84 High Low Company Price Ch's Pence % P/E

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We apologise for certain deficiencies in our Stock Exchange prices service; and for the non-appearance of unit trust and insurance fund tables, money market and foreign exchange rates and Wall Street prices. These are the result of industrial action by the clerical branch of Sogat '82.

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Villa pay dearly as Withe steps out of line for the fourth time

Peter Withe, Aston Villa's England forward, will miss the first leg of the Milk Cup semi-final next month because of a two-match suspension. He went over 21 disciplinary points in Villa's 2-0 win in the quarter-final at Norwich on Tuesday night when he was booked for the fourth time in the last seven matches. He will now miss a League game at home to Luton Town on February 4 and the Milk Cup tie the following week.

Villa tried yesterday to clear his suspension earlier by attempting to rearrange a League game away to Coventry City which was postponed because of Coventry's FA Cup involvement on January 28. But Coventry turned down Villa's suggestion to play on Tuesday, January 31, the starting date for Withe's ban.

"We understand their reasons," Steve Stride, Villa's secretary, said. "They could have a Cup replay that night and, in effect, their supporters would have had only two days notice of a match with us."

Treford Mills, who refereed Tuesday's match was following a football League directive when he sent off Paul Rideout, Villa's young forward, after 11 minutes.

The League recently circulated a circular referring to the possible dangers posed by players wearing jewelry in matches. But Rideout, wearing a ring, genuinely believed he was being sent off when the Barnsley official pointed theatrically to the dressing rooms after the England youth international displayed a booking in the twelfth minute.

"The referee booked me for having a go at 'Dixie' Deehan and then he suddenly said 'no' to the dressing room," Rideout explained.

The stunned youngster was met at the touchline by the furious Villa management team of Tony Barton and Roy McLaren. As they prepared to escort him away Mills granted an unexpected reprieve.

Rideout added: "He suddenly seemed to change his mind and although I was already off the pitch he ran. I was a bit surprised because a linesman had already checked us in the dressing room before the game and he said nothing to me."

Rideout, unable to remove the ring, settled for having it taped over, but the experience failed to worry him. He coolly drove in Villa's 33rd minute second goal just 12 minutes after Shaw put them ahead. The result probably granted a stay of execution for Barton and McLaren, who were warned before the game by Doug Ellis, the Villa chairman, that the club would not tolerate continued failure.

The players were incensed when the referee covered newspapers to read these comments just before an important cup tie, Barton said. "It put them under the unfair and unnecessary pressure of thinking they were playing to save our jobs."

The Ellis outburst certainly did the trick, though, as Villa avenged their FA Cup defeat by Norwich six days earlier to reach their seventh semi-final in the competition. They always looked more composed and competitive, even before Norwich took their England Under-21 centre half, David Watson, with concussion in a fourth-minute collision with Withe's elbow.

The Norwich captain was sleeping the injury off yesterday after X-ray tests had revealed no fracture. Norwich are hopeful that he may play at



Withe ruled out by two-match suspension

Nottingham Forest on Saturday, along with Aage Hareide, the Norwegian international defender, who injured his back against Villa. "The injury to Watson disoriented and demoralized us," Ken Brown, the Norwich manager, said.

"I suppose the result will keep me in the job for another week," Barton joked. "Over two legs I fancy our chances against anybody if we play the way we did against Norwich."

Joe Fagan believes Sheffield Wednesday are on the way back to the big time. The Liverpool manager rates them certainties

to return to the First Division next season.

Fagan's side were held 2-2 in Tuesday's Milk Cup quarter-final in front of nearly 30,000 spectators at Hillsborough, said, "I can't see anyone stopping them. Howard Wilkinson has got them believing in the way they play."

Wilkinson, Wednesday's manager, said: "I'm not filled with fear or dread about going to Anfield. We have matched them once with one of our players not reaching the standards they are capable of. We can match them again."

A weekend by the sea is Burnley's transfer fee

Torquay United, the managers' fourth division club, have arranged an unusual transfer fee for Burnley's right back Andy Waterson - a free weekend by the sea for Burnley manager John Bond and players.

The deal was made by Torquay's caretaker manager Frank O'Farrell, who stepped in for two days after Bruce Kitch's resignation at the weekend.

Dave Easton, Torquay secretary, said: "It's certainly a new one on me. We're picking up all the hotel and meal bills in Torquay when Burnley come down to play Plymouth on February 4."

"Mind you, it's the sort of deal that only a club like Torquay could offer. Can you imagine anyone wanting to spend a weekend break in Halls or Hartlepool?"

Gary Mabbitt put himself in contention for a return to the Tottenham side for Saturday's trip to Everton by giving a strong reserve team performance yesterday. A pelvic strain, came through a hard fought 2-2 match against Southampton at the Chestnut training ground.

Albin Brazil, left out of the last two matches, hit a second half equaliser, his seventh reserve team goal in his last three matches, following hat tricks against Crystal Palace and Watford.

Govaldo Ardiel scored the other goal.

Aston Villa have extended the contract of their midfield player Dennis Mortimer, which will take his service past nine years. His contract was due for renewal in the summer, but Villa have extended it until January.

Mortimer, who joined Villa from Coventry in 1975, captained the club to the League Championship in 1981 and the European Cup a year.

Reading are asking their fans whether they should switch their home match against Northampton on Friday, March 16, to avoid clashing with the proposed live television broadcast of Southampton v Liverpool at The Dell.

Swansea City will be Britain's representatives in an expenses-paid, winter tour of the United States next week. The struggling second division club fly out with 14 players on Friday to compete for the Kuala Lumpur Cup.

A group of Herford United fans have £41,000 to help the club's creditors who are owed £50,000 by the fourth division club.

Celebrity Shares - game that breaks the rules

By Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent

The outcome of the Guillermo Vilas case is inconclusive. The voided issue of appearance money and guarantees is as vexed as ever. Last March the promoters of a tournament in Rotterdam, deprived of the celebrities they expected, asked Vilas to help them out. He did so. Later it was alleged that his manager, Ion Tiriac, accepted a fee of \$60,000 (£42,000) and thus broke the rules.

In June the Men's International Professional Tennis Council fined the former French, United States and Australian champion \$20,000 (£14,000) and suspended him for a year. Vilas and his manager appealed, denying the charge. They have waited seven months (why seven months?) for a decision. Meanwhile Vilas had his thirty-first birthday and wondered if his career as a top-tenner was over.

On Tuesday the prolonged, complicated and confused process of appeal ended with an announcement that confirmed the original findings, upheld the fine but rescinded the suspension - a somewhat contradictory gesture of mercy based on the player's previously "exemplary" conduct and a belief that, during all those months of uncertainty, his tennis had suffered enough in this type of financial limbo.

The fine is only a third of the alleged appearance fee, but Vilas must share with the MIPTC the costs of the appeal, which have been estimated at \$400,000 (£282,000). On the whole he has been treated leniently. That is reasonable because to some extent he has been used as a scapegoat and as an example to others.

The guarantee system was born because a small minority of players are sufficiently celebrated to attract the public, the publicity media and consequent prestige. To persuade such players to take part in their events, tournament promoters or their rich backers have persistently made private payments to the stars.

These payments used to be defined as appearance money (a flat fee in addition to prize money) or a guarantee (a fixed minimum that the player earned as much, or more, in prize money). These inducements, contravening the rules, are now collectively known as guarantees.

Their first objective was to be insoluble, lie in defining which inducements break the rules - and in establishing the facts of such clandestine arrangements. Cash payments, however, are comparatively straightforward, though difficult to prove. Given total and universal integrity by tournament organizers and players, with a mutual refusal to

offer private payments or accept them, the malaise - assuming it is such - would be checked but not cured. There are other ways in which celebrities can be persuaded to turn up for this or that tournament.

A business agreement between player and promoter or sponsor may involve paid promotional appearances on television or at pre-tournament social functions. A player may profit from sponsor appearances, autograph sessions, coaching clinics, or exhibitions played before or after the tournament concerned. And a player's fee for endorsing a racket or a line of clothing may be partly based on his participation in one tournament or another.

These are some of the ways in which players and entrepreneurs can respect or circumvent the rules governing guarantees. For 30 years and more administrators have tried to distinguish between what is permissible and what is not - and to enforce such distinctions. The most recent campaign, culminating in the Vilas test case, may discourage "abused" and drive private negotiations more deeply into the shadows. It remains likely, though, that in one guise or another guarantees - private inducements to play in a particular event - will always be with us.

The case against guarantees is that they are unjust and also impair the integrity of the professional game by reducing the incentive to win and thus making competition less credible. It is argued that a player guaranteed \$50,000 is not going to work himself into the ground for a prize of \$25,000.

The accusation of injustice is based on the argument that nobody

should be paid more than he can win - that all players should be rewarded on merit alone, with no cash incentives other than those "up for grabs" in the prize fund. It is, of course, too, that an agent permitted to negotiate a guarantee on behalf of a top-tenner might insist on smaller guarantees for other clients, a practice that could eventually make the prize-money format a symbolic sham.

There is, however, growing support for discarding the ban on guarantees: on the grounds that the ban has never been totally effective, never can be and is misguided anyway. Advocates of an open market point out that a player's ranking, reputation and market value are at stake every time he or she goes on court and that the chance of celebrities merely going through the motions is therefore exaggerated. The case of thinking, though, is convincing only when applied to the more distinguished tournaments.

It has been suggested that in society as a whole it is common practice to offer experts financial inducements to work for one company rather than another. Such practices, whether in tennis or in other professions, are freely negotiated for the benefit of both parties. It is further asserted that, as part of their promotional budget, tournaments should be free to "buy" the celebrities who will bring in the public, the publicity and the prestige. It is also argued that the ban on guarantees discriminates against the leading players, who should be allowed to cash in.

So much for the details of the problem and the case for its solution. It was as easy to see the way ahead. It has been suggested that guarantees should be brought into the open, with a set standard of payment according to the players' rankings. This was done last year in the World Team Cup competition (except from the ban because it is a team event, though it is difficult to appreciate what difference that makes). Alternatively, a larger proportion of prize money could be allocated to players reaching the latter rounds of a tournament, or a scheme of both, would alleviate the problem without solving it. Additional inducements could still be privately negotiated.

The guarantee system cannot be allowed to run riot. It must therefore be disciplined, if only it was as easy to see the way ahead. Tennis has a light on its hands - a light it probably cannot win. But the cost of chancing out would be chaos.



Vilas the scapegoat

Worst gate for QPR's best win

The Queen's Park Rangers manager, Tony Venables, had sympathy for those supporters who missed the six-goal victory against Stoke City at Loftus Road on Tuesday night. Rangers' biggest first division win in 10 years was watched by their lowest league gate of the season - 9,320.

Venables said: "It was a cold night. I felt sorry for the regular fans who normally come along, but decided to stay at home."

Bill Asprey, who last week was appointed as Stoke City manager for the rest of the season, was preoccupied by matters on rather than off the pitch. "It was our worst defensive display of the season, absolutely disgraceful. I blame our defence for all six goals. Rangers were given free headers and did just about what they liked. It wouldn't have made any difference if we had trained on Rangers' artificial pitch for a week. If you don't do the basics, you will be punished," he said.

Asprey now has to contemplate a winter struggle against relegation. Venables, in contrast, is planning a serious challenge to the first division leaders over the second half of the season.

Two goals from the newly-acquired Jeremy Charles, lifts Rangers into fourth position in the League and has helped them towards a place in Europe next season. Starford, Stewart, and Fildes were Rangers' other scorers.

Venables said: "With a little bit of luck we could have been in the top two at this stage, but we are still looking to make an impression with almost half a season to go. Although I don't think we were the title, we are in a position to try."

The evening was not all joy for Venables, however. Charles sustained a split eye which needed stitching while Terry Forwick also received a knock, but both should be fit for Saturday's trip to Sunderland.

The other trainers to go were those of another Georgian club, Dynamo Tbilisi. Dynamo Moscow, the Armenian club, Ararat Yerevan, the Moldavian side, Mitsu Kishinev, and the Moscow-based Soviet Army team.

The second division club, Rotor Volgograd, sacked their trainer, Vladimir Korotkiy, for "serious errors and moral failings", the sport committee said.

The sport committee has called for an examination of the state of Soviet football after a disappointing performance by the national side in failing to qualify for the finals of the European Championship.

The Hague (Reuters) - The

Soviets fire first and ask questions later

Moscow (Reuters) - The trainers of six Soviet teams, a third of the first division, have been replaced in a reshuffle announced by the national sport committee, yesterday. The trainer of Torpedo Kutaisi, Tengiz Grigolashvili, was dismissed for serious errors in handling his team and five others resigned, which probably signified some pressure, the newspaper, Soviet Sport, said.

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The Hague (Reuters) - The

Irish look for dignity indoors

Britain play Ireland here today in the European indoor team championship for the King's Cup and, on paper, Britain should win. Czechoslovakia may be more difficult to beat, but they are resented by the amounts to a reserve team. But Britain have an obvious chance to reach Sunday's final, probably against Sweden, and win the Championship, for the first time since 1967.

As is usually the case when Britain play a team match, much depends on Christopher Mottram. He has a superb record in this type of event but has a question mark against him this time. Mottram's withdrawal from the Grand Prix circuit may have taken the edge from his ability as a match player.

The weight of responsibility has, however, been slightly reduced by the fact that he will be playing at second string, behind Colin Dowds.

There are several factors to inspire or at least encourage Ireland. They were beaten 2-1 by Czechoslovakia on Tuesday and must win today to stay in the running. They have a chance to bring a little dignity to their terrible record against British teams.

The first stringer, Matt Doyle, who beat Eilat Teltscher in the Davis Cup, can hardly play as badly again as he did against Limerick on Tuesday. That tie with Czechoslovakia gave Doyle and Sean Sorenson some very match-play, whereas today Britain will be competing for the first time.

Michael Hickey, the Irish captain, said yesterday that the draw has been favourable to Britain. "They have been here since Monday but will be the last team to play on the court," he said. "On the other hand players at this level get up pretty quickly, regardless of the surface. We were pleased when Britain announced their playing order, because we prefer to have their best player against our best player."

"Matt has a lot to prove. We had hoped for more from him against Czechoslovakia. Sean may have a better chance against Buster (Mottram)." Doyle said.

From Rex Bellamy, Essex

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S Africans hope to keep race

Johannesburg (Reuters) - South African racing officials were confident yesterday that the Kyalami track would retain its world championship status despite a report from Paris that its future was in jeopardy.

A statement by the international motor sports federation, FISA, on Tuesday said the South African Grand Prix would be taken off the calendar if certain safety improvements were not made and financial guarantees given. But the owner of the track, Bobby Harmsiel, said that he was confident the required modifications would be completed by March 7, a month before the race, when an official inspection is due. He also said the financial guarantee would be given before the required date of completion.

COMMONWEALTH GAMES: Salford City Council are considering making a bid for the 1994 games, although the recreation committee chairman, Councillor John Hargrave, said the city had no athletics stadium or 50-metre pool. He added, however, that the council was ready to build them "tomorrow" if the money became available.

BOXING: Unbeaten Roger Mayweather, of the United States, will make the third defence of his WBA junior lightweight title when he meets his compatriot Rocky Lockridge, on February 26.

Sibson bout will go on as planned

Paris (Reuters) - The European middleweight championship bout between Louis Acaries and Tony Sibson will go ahead here as planned on February 25, despite Sibson's defeat by Don Lee in Atlanta City last Sunday, the French champion's brother, Michel Acaries, said yesterday.

"The defeat of Tony Sibson does not rule out the fight," he said. "Last night we were in contact with London and I was assured that Sibson would be in Paris on February 25 to meet Louis. He is returning from the United States next Sunday and will sign the contract then."

Sibson's manager, Sam Burns, said on Tuesday that he might ask for a postponement, Michel Acaries said that he would not do so. "A bout over the left eye - was not serious. 'In a week nothing will show and he will be able to start training again,' he said."

Sibson, who was knocked out by Don Lee in Atlanta City last Sunday, was taken to hospital with left and right punches to the head before the American referee, Lou Filippo, stopped the bout in the second round. Cedeno won the title from Charlie Magin in London last September.

Record fine imposed on brawlers

Oldham and Leigh were fined record sums of £1,000 each at yesterday's Rugby League management committee inquiry into the abandonment of their match on January 8.

The referee, John Mean, of Leyland, called off the game at Oldham after 36 minutes when the teams began brawling, but he was assured that the referee, who felt he had other options.

The hearing, at Leeds lasted four hours as evidence was heard from the referee, touch judges, club directors, coaches and players.

The match was declared void and the game will be replayed. The committee, who considered video evidence during the hearing, said afterwards they felt there were other options open to the referee which he might have applied to advantage before taking the ultimate step of abandoning the game.

Jack Bateman, the council chairman, said that Rugby League had come out of the affair "not very well at all. This is a bad thing for our game."

Both clubs may appeal against the fines. Leigh representatives indicated they would certainly do so.

Hickstead jumps for joy

The Hickstead Jumping Derby has become the richest showjumping event in the world following the announcement by the British Equestrian Federation that the new sponsors of the event, that they are giving a first prize of £20,000 - a £6,000 increase from last year.

Sir John's £78,000 sponsorship of the four-day Derby meeting from 24-27 August and for at least the next two years has assured the future of the Sussex showjumping venue. Early last year Mr Douglas Burns, the owner of Hickstead, had been gloomy about the showground's future following the withdrawal of two main sponsors, Kerrygold and Hambro Life. Mr Burns said last May that if no one took on the Jumping Derby the whole of Hickstead would "almost certainly have to close".

The new sponsors are also offering the winner of the Derby a further £5,000 if they complete two clear rounds. Since the event was started in 1961 only three riders

have achieved this feat. Pat Smythe was the first in 1967, riding Flanagan, followed by Alison Wood with The Maverick in 1968 and Harry Smith on Mattie Brown in 1970. Last year John Whitaker and Ryan's Son won the event after completing the only clear round in the first round - and only the 12-year-old son of the event's 23-year-old history.

The first of Hickstead's three international meetings this year will be from June 1-3. The May meeting has been dropped from the calendar. Mr Burns would not disclose the name of the sponsor for the June meeting yesterday. The Nations Cup meeting has been brought forward from May to a mystery location and will be held from July 12-15.

Moser in Milan

Francesco Moser, of Italy, and the Netherlands' René Pijnen are the leading partnership in the Milan six-day cycling race from February 11

Jacklin's 'great challenge' as Ryder captain

Tony Jacklin will again captain Europe's Ryder Cup team against the United States at the Belfry, Sutton Coldfield, next year. The Professional Golfers Association have given the former British and US Open champion their approval after his magnificent leadership against the Americans in Florida last October.

Jacklin's captaincy inspired the Europeans to their best performance in the States - defeat by one point - with the result in doubt until the last two singles. But Jacklin has no illusions that the next match at home, the twenty-sixth in the series, from September 13 to 15 in 1985, will be a pushover for Europe.

The Americans have not been beaten in the fixture since 1957 and Jacklin said at his home in Sotogrande in Spain: "Everyone must remember that the circumstances will be totally different from Florida - different teams, different atmosphere."

"I have no doubt that we have within us the capability of winning but we have to work on it and get it right. We'll have to have the breaks as well. It is going to be a great challenge."

Milan stand in the path of Solent

Spartans Solent Stars who, stand on the threshold of becoming the first British club to reach the semi-finals of a European competition, the Cup Winners' Cup, can ill afford to underestimate the team most likely to stand in their way.

Having beaten Saturn Cologne 2-7 in Tuesday's gripping quarter-final group match Solent probably need only to win one of their two remaining games to go through. Since Milan, the visitors to Eastleigh next Wednesday for what promises to be a fiery encounter, are the team Solent most realistically call by for their last group game is away to Cibona Zagreb, who have already thrashed the English League leaders at home.

Yesterday's celebrations on the south coast were only slightly dampened by the news that Milan had gained a remarkable success in qualifying. Had Milan stood they would have had less to play for.

The problem for Jim Kelly, Solent's coach is having to persuade his players that just because they have beaten Milan in Italy, there will be no formality in the home return.

People are saying that all we have to do is beat Milan but not everyone can realise that just because we have beaten Milan once, there's no guarantee we will do so again," he said. "Milan are a fine team and their result against Zagreb didn't surprise me. Maybe people should start giving us a little bit credit for what we did to them in Italy."

Milan, of course, are the club which won the world invitation club championship, sponsored by Philips, at Crystal Palace last April. The Year beating Maccabi Tel Aviv, the holders in the final. Then, however, they were able to call on Antonio Carr, their big American, who did not play for Solent and is still ineligible for European competition.

Solent hope that his absence will continue to provide the essential difference between the side that won at Palace and the side with whom they renew acquaintance.

Navratilova top

New York (AP) - Martina Navratilova has been named the No.1-ranked woman player in the United States for 1983.

Prenn passes a test

John Prent, the holder and first score in the conference that he served badly and was used to such pace. He was clearly despondent at his own mistakes, and the memory of having, as a member of the conformation second pair with Graham Cowdrey, reached the final of the Noel Bruce Cup last November, eliminating on the way the champions, Prent and Charles Hue Williams, receded into the distance.

Randall Crawley, suffering from two cracked ribs, caused by a fall while during recently, found rhythm perfect positioning and fluent strokes to defeat Jeremy Hughes, a wild and precise player, 15-0, 15-1, 15-3, in one of the best matches of the Noel Bruce Cup.

Prent beat Spurling by imposing control through light service and with natural footwork he produced handsome, wristy drives deep and low to length with perfect timing.

RESULTS: John Prent 15-0, 15-1, 15-1 vs. Graham Cowdrey 15-0, 15-1, 15-3. Prent beat Charles Hue Williams 15-0, 15-1, 15-3.

SNOW REPORTS

| | | |
|---|---------|------|
| Avoriaz | 130 135 | Good |
| Excellent skiing in most places | | |
| Crans-Montana | 40 120 | Good |
| New snow on hard base | | |
| Davos | 80 160 | Good |
| Excellent skiing everywhere | | |
| Flaine | 115 220 | Good |
| Same exposed windward slopes | | |
| Gstaad | 30 80 | Powd |
| New snow on good base | | |
| Ischgl | 50 160 | Good |
| New snow on good base | | |
| Kitzbühel | 25 100 | Good |
| Excellent on all parts | | |
| Les Arves | 45 145 | Good |
| Good skiing everywhere | | |
| St Moritz | 40 50 | Fair |
| New snow on hard base | | |
| Saas Fee | 30 90 | Good |
| Powder on good base | | |
| Verbier | 30 130 | Good |
| Powder heavy lower down | | |
| Wendegg | 25 80 | Fair |
| Thin coat of snow on base | | |
| In the above reports, supplies by rail | | |
| Britain, L refers to lower slopes and U | | |

RACING

Basil Boy sets early pace in Lincoln betting

By Michael Seely

Basil boy was made a unanimous favourite by all bookmakers when the weights were announced for the William Hill Lincoln Handicap yesterday. After winning two races last season and finishing third in the Cambridgeshire as well as in the Lincoln, Richard Hannan's five-year-old certainly looks fairly handicapped with 8s to carry in the first big race of the 1984 flat racing season.

As Hannan is in Barbados on plans, are known as the 89 favourite but three of the 89 entries will join a record 38 horses power raiding party on Craggs-sur-Mer next week. Fitness is always at a premium in the first leg of the spring double. So Razor Sharp, Rely On Guy and Shady will all be joining the British task force in France.

Charlie Nelson is hoping to engage the services of Joe Mercer for Razor Sharp at Doncaster. "The colt had blood vessel problems last season" said the Lambourn trainer yesterday "but he ran well when second to Miss Thames at Bath and does not look to badly truly with 8s 7lb."

Willie Ryan will be on board Rely On Guy, the colt with which Reg Hollingshead won the race at Doncaster for Ian Botham last June. Geoff Huffer's regular jockey Michael Miller will be riding Shady who is now back at Newmarket after an unsuccessful journey to the United States in 1983.

Philip Mitchell has booked Bryn Crossley for Morality Stone, in the hope that the pair

can repeat their 1980 triumph with Kings Glory. However, last season's Newbury Spring Cup winner is not one of the four horses that the Epsom trainer will be sending to the Riviera. "As Morality Stone ran four times at Craggs-sur-Mer last year without winning the owners have decided against the trip this year. So I will give him two or three runs over hurdles instead," Mitchell said.

The general price on offer against the seven-year-old, who has been allotted 7s 2lb, is 33-1. "I would think he would run well as long as he is not balloted out," Mitchell continued. "I like a horse with a rating of 25 and a speed figure of 75 for these big handicaps. It shows that a horse can quicken at the end of a fast race."

This afternoon the trainer has hopes of winning the second division of the Keep Novices Hurdle at Lingfield with Saratino, who was bought out of Ian Balding's stable for 7,800 guineas at the Newmarket autumn sales. The colt was beaten five lengths by Star Of Ireland at Fakenham in December. "We went for a good touch but came unstuck," admits the trainer. "I reckon we came up against something pretty smart."

Saratino finished third to the highly rated Townley Stone, at Ascot on Saturday, when his trainer said he needed the race. The second division of this race should be won by Oregon Trail.

Lingfield Park

GOING: Heavy

Total Distance: 2.0, 3.0, 2.0, 1.30, 2.30, 3.30

1.00 KEEP HURDLE (Div I: novices: 4-y-o: £548: 2m) (16 runners)

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| 106 | 80a | CATTLE EYES (C Campbell) | C Campbell | 10-10 |
| 107 | 80b | CATTLE GRASS (C Campbell) | C Campbell | 10-10 |
| 108 | 80c | CATTLE GRASS (C Campbell) | C Campbell | 10-10 |
| 109 | 80d | CATTLE GRASS (C Campbell) | C Campbell | 10-10 |
| 110 | 80e | CATTLE GRASS (C Campbell) | C Campbell | 10-10 |
| 111 | 80f | CATTLE GRASS (C Campbell) | C Campbell | 10-10 |
| 112 | 80g | CATTLE GRASS (C Campbell) | C Campbell | 10-10 |
| 113 | 80h | CATTLE GRASS (C Campbell) | C Campbell | 10-10 |
| 114 | 80i | CATTLE GRASS (C Campbell) | C Campbell | 10-10 |
| 115 | 80j | CATTLE GRASS (C Campbell) | C Campbell | 10-10 |
| 116 | 80k | CATTLE GRASS (C Campbell) | C Campbell | 10-10 |
| 117 | 80l | CATTLE GRASS (C Campbell) | C Campbell | 10-10 |
| 118 | 80m | CATTLE GRASS (C Campbell) | C Campbell | 10-10 |
| 119 | 80n | CATTLE GRASS (C Campbell) | C Campbell | 10-10 |
| 120 | 80o | CATTLE GRASS (C Campbell) | C Campbell | 10-10 |
| 121 | 80p | CATTLE GRASS (C Campbell) | C Campbell | 10-10 |
| 122 | 80q | CATTLE GRASS (C Campbell) | C Campbell | 10-10 |
| 123 | 80r | CATTLE GRASS (C Campbell) | C Campbell | 10-10 |
| 124 | 80s | CATTLE GRASS (C Campbell) | C Campbell | 10-10 |
| 125 | 80t | CATTLE GRASS (C Campbell) | C Campbell | 10-10 |
| 126 | 80u | CATTLE GRASS (C Campbell) | C Campbell | 10-10 |
| 127 | 80v | CATTLE GRASS (C Campbell) | C Campbell | 10-10 |
| 128 | 80w | CATTLE GRASS (C Campbell) | C Campbell | 10-10 |
| 129 | 80x | CATTLE GRASS (C Campbell) | C Campbell | 10-10 |
| 130 | 80y | CATTLE GRASS (C Campbell) | C Campbell | 10-10 |
| 131 | 80z | CATTLE GRASS (C Campbell) | C Campbell | 10-10 |
| 132 | 80aa | CATTLE GRASS (C Campbell) | C Campbell | 10-10 |
| 133 | 80ab | CATTLE GRASS (C Campbell) | C Campbell | 10-10 |
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| 138 | 80ag | CATTLE GRASS (C Campbell) | C Campbell | 10-10 |
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| 147 | 80ap | CATTLE GRASS (C Campbell) | C Campbell | 10-10 |
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| 174 | 80bq | CATTLE GRASS (C Campbell) | C Campbell | 10-10 |
| 175 | 80br | CATTLE GRASS (C Campbell) | C Campbell | 10-10 |
| 176 | 80bs | CATTLE GRASS (C Campbell) | C Campbell | 10-10 |
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| 182 | 80by | CATTLE GRASS (C Campbell) | C Campbell | 10-10 |
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| 308 | 80gu | CATTLE GRASS (C Campbell) | C Campbell | 10-10 |
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| 310 | 80gw | CATTLE GRASS (C Campbell) | C Campbell | 10-10 |
| 311 | 80gx | CATTLE GRASS (C Campbell) | C Campbell | 10-10 |
| 312 | 80gy | CATTLE GRASS (C Campbell) | C Campbell | 10-10 |
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| 314 | 80ha | CATTLE GRASS (C Campbell) | C Campbell | 10-10 |
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| 316 | 80hc | CATTLE GRASS (C Campbell) | C Campbell | 10-10 |
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| 363 | 80ix | CATTLE GRASS (C Campbell) | C Campbell | 10-10 |
| 364 | 80iy | CATTLE GRASS (C Campbell) | C Campbell | 10-10 |
| 365 | 80iz | CATTLE GRASS (C Campbell) | C Campbell | 10-10 |
| 366 | 80ja | CATTLE GRASS (C Campbell) | C Campbell | 10-10 |
| 367 | 80jb | CATTLE GRASS (C Campbell) | C Campbell | 10-10 |
| 368 | 80jc | CATTLE GRASS (C Campbell) | C Campbell | 10-10 |
| 369 | 80jd</ | | | |

Heath says he will not be a lackey

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mr Edward Heath, in a defiant mood after voting against the rate-capping legislation, yesterday declared that he had no intention of being a lackey or a lackey and intensified his onslaught against the Government's economic record.

Mr Heath, one of 13 Conservative MPs who voted against the Rates Bill second reading on Tuesday night, denied that he had led or organized the rebellion and angrily denounced the coverage of his action by some newspapers.

Unrepentant about going into the lobbies against the Government for the first time since the Tories were returned to power in 1979, the former Tory leader made it clear that he would continue to speak out if he felt it was necessary.

He said the party had always been one in which people had their say and influenced events. "The responsibility lies on us to continue that tradition. We are not going to be hacks and lackeys, pushed here and there. We are going to express our views and will act accordingly in the House of Commons."

In an interview on BBC Radio's *World at One*, Mr Heath said that Tuesday's revolt was a spontaneous movement of Conservative

MPs who shared his views, and he knew that many others would have liked to have voted against the Bill or to have abstained.

Mr Heath attacked the *Daily Mail* whose headline on a report of the vote was "Heath's treachery". He said it was characteristic of the *Mail* to have such a headline. "If you differ from anyone you are a traitor," he said. "This is getting very close to abuse of the democracy as far as the *Mail* is concerned. It has no arguments, so it resorts to abuse of the grossest kind." He said it was not only the *Mail* that indulged in "this narrow, bigoted approach."

Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark one of the Conservatives who voted against the Rates Bill, was among the Tory MPs chosen by the Commons Committee of Selection yesterday to serve on the Bill's standing committee.

Although he can be expected to withdraw his support from the Government on several issues during the Bill's passage, its majority will not be at risk. There will be 17 Tory members, nine Labour and two Alliance on the committee, whose membership will be announced today.

Leading article, letters, page 11

Sales of assets to affect borrowing level

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

A broad hint that Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, may move to tighten fiscal policy in the Budget came yesterday from Sir Terence Burns, his chief economic adviser.

The all-party Committee of Enquiry into the public accounts, headed by Sir Terence Burns, said that the level of asset sales into account when judging the appropriate level of public borrowing, "though not necessarily one for one".

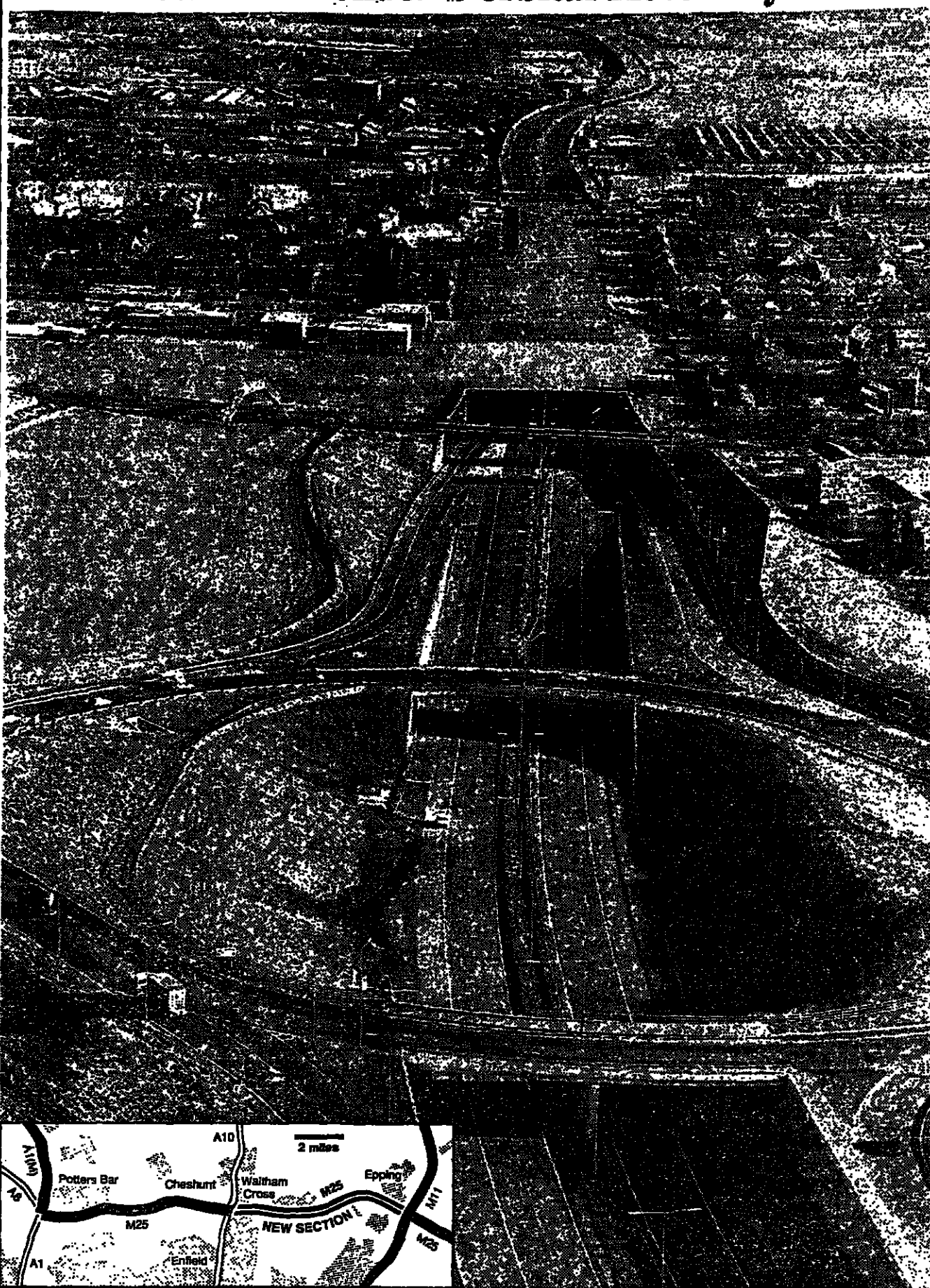
Since the Government set its £8,000m borrowing target for 1984-85 last spring it has increased its estimate of asset sales from £1,500m to £1,900m. Many people in the City believe even that to be a considerable underestimate

since it includes the sale of shares in British Telecom. That has led to charges that by using the proceeds of asset sales to reduce public spending the Government is running a more expansionary fiscal policy than the raw public borrowing figures suggest.

The arguments for reducing the PSBR below £8,000m - which could involve a significant and unpopular increase in taxation or more draconian cuts in spending - are reinforced by Treasury concerns over monetary growth trends and inflation prospects. Its pre-Budget forecasts are thought to point to inflation sticking at the present level of about 5 per cent by the end of the year, rather than declining to 4.5 per cent as forecasted in the autumn statement.

Finance and Industry, page 13

Latest link in London's orbital motorway chain



A key section of London's M25 orbital motorway - its junction with the A10 at Waltham Cross - will be opened by Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary for Transport, next Wednesday. Tennis courts have been constructed over the motorway tunnel. Traffic on the £80m section is expected to build up to 50,000 vehicles a day. Photograph: Harry Kerr.

Letter from Brussels

Belgians sacrifice sleep for the Beeb

Spot somebody round Brussels these days with bloodshot eyes and an exhausted expression and the chances are it is an English-speaker.

This is not necessarily because the British are having to work extra hard at their desks at the moment to try to sort out the budget problem or because they are worrying about UHT milk flooding ashore in Albion. It is because since January 6, BBC television has been available live to the 350,000 homes in the "capital of Europe" which are linked to the television cable system.

Undeterred by the long death-agonies of *The Thorn Birds*, this new captive audience sits late into the night, mesmerized by the sound of English words coming out of English-speaking mouths, with no subtitles littering the screen. Even more novel is the experience of watching corny old American films without the agony of trying to reconcile the lip movements with the French or German sounds coming from the loudspeakers.

The Brussels cable television network has long been able to lay claim to being the most polyglot in the world. Any self-respecting home, even before January 6, had a set capable of picking up at least 13 stations in three languages.

French-speakers could tune into all three French channels plus two Luxembourg ones as well as the Luxembourg output. Dutch-speakers could pick from two Belgian and two Dutch stations. In addition, three German programmes were piped across the border.

The Dutch stations in particular often run English-language films with minimum sub-titling, as befits a nation where more hard-core English novels are reportedly sold than in Britain. But the arrival of the BBC means that four of the seven Community languages are now available live in Brussels, providing the channel-hopper with a rich linguistic experience.

The BBC's arrival also makes it tiring. This is because Britain is an hour behind the rest of Europe - only on the clock, of course - which means that midnight movies do not start until 1am, with all that implies for those who

have to get up an hour ahead of Greenwich mean time to be at their desks next morning.

The battle to bring the BBC to Belgium has been long and legally difficult. Technically it has been possible for a long time, while the short distances involved mean that any good arial can pick up both the BBC and ITN anywhere west of Ghent. Bringing the good news east of there requires simple cable technology.

But for years the negotiations have been bogged down, largely because nobody could agree who should pay how much to authors, artists and film companies for this extra BBC audience. Then, when that was eventually sorted out last September, the main cable companies refused to put it on the air because, they claimed, the bulk of their audience did not want to pay the extra money needed to cover the transmission costs.

The argument spilled over into the Belgian language problem, with the companies claiming that not enough people in French-speaking Wallonia wanted to pay for an English service. Meanwhile, in Flanders, where the BBC was rushed on to the air, viewers were objecting to having to pay for the new French culture channel. TV's which has just been cabled into Liège.

Given the cable companies' intransigence, the British community mounted a letter campaign to convince them that people really did want to watch the BBC. Then the Belgian Government agreed to halve the charge to the cable companies for supplying the signal. The procrastination ended and the BBC will be available to make Lord Carrington feel that much more at home when he moves in as Secretary-General of Nato in June.

British officials have looked forward to the arrival of British television as a useful ally. They have hoped it would prove persuasive in helping to get a responsible British viewpoint across to a public which sometimes regards Britain as the wrecker of the EEC.

It remains to be seen whether *Hi-de-Hi*, *Esther Rantzen* and *Dr Who* are the way to win hearts in Europe.

Ian Murray

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

New books - paperbacks

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:

A Mere Formality, novel, by Barbara Howell (Corgi, £1.95).
An Affair of the Heart, by Days Powell (Michael Haag, £4.95).
Scholarship in London, by Arthur Ransome (Corgi, £2.50).
Lost and Found, novel, by Julian Gough (Arrow, £1.95).
Sadie's Birthday, novel, by Rose Treman (Athena, £2.50).
Sweet Nothings, An Anthology of Love, by Jonathan Green (Sphere, £1.50).
The Fourth Estate, A History of Women in the Middle Ages, by Shulamith Shahar (Methuen, £7.50).
The Illustrated Novel, by Anita Mason (Abacus, £1.95).
The Steps of the Sun, by Joanna Trollope (Arrow, £1.95).
Young Charles Lamb, 1775-1822, by Welford F. Courtney (Macmillan, £7.50).

Roads

London and South-east: A235: Water main repairs at junction of Brighton Road and Sanderstead Lane. Croydon: single line traffic in each direction. M28: Major reconstruction work from A20 junction 3.5 (Malden) west to 4, mile east of 3.29 (junction 7.5).
 Second of three Arts Council exhibitions about sculpture made in Japan. Cartwright Hall, Lister Park, Bradford Tues to Sun 10 to 5 (until 5 Feb).

The naked and the nude by David Holmes, City Museum and Art Gallery, Princes Street, Peterborough, Tues to Sat 12 to 5 (until Feb 4).
 Jordanian Exhibition: the last of the Bedouin in Jordan. The Winchester Gallery, Park Avenue, Winchester, Hampshire, Mon to Fri 9 to 6, Sat 9 to 12 (until Feb 3).

Past Imperfect: work by Marc Camille Chaimowicz, John Hansard Gallery, The University, Southampton, Mon to Sat 10 to 6 (until Feb 25).
 "Paintings and Constructions" by Malcolm Ross-White Festival Gallery, Pierpoint Place, Bath: Tues to Sat, 11 to 5 (until Feb 4).
 Paintings by Walter Osborne, Ulster Museum Botanic Gardens, Belfast, Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Sat 11 to 5 Sun 2 to 5 (until Feb 29).
 Prints by David Barker, and Mosaic, by John Kindness, Peacock Gallery, Craikway, Northern Ireland, Mon to Fri 10 to 5, closed Sat and Sun (until Jan 31).

Talks, lectures
 Benjamin Franklin, by Frank Delaney, Oxford Book Association, Clarendon Press Centre, Walton Street, Oxford 8. (The annual general meeting of the association begins at 7.)

Provincial music
 Concert by Julian Cavendish (flute) and Paul Trepte (piano), Solihull Library Theatre, Solihull, 1.00.
 Concert by Ian Partridge (tenor) and Jennifer Partridge (piano), Kent College, Canterbury, 8.
 Piano recital by Wolfgang Manz, St George's Brandon Hill, Bristol, 1.
 Concert by the Faber Trio, Leicestershire Museum and Art Gallery, New Walk, Leicester, 12.45.
 Concert by the Bourne-mouth Symphony Orchestra, Winter Gardens, Bourne-mouth, 7.30.

Parliament today
 Commons (2.30): Debate on Opposition motion on housing benefit. Nottinghamshire County Council Bill.
 Lords (3): Education (Grants and Awards) Bill, and Town and Country Planning Bill, second reading.

Anniversaries
 Births: James Watt, inventor, Glasgow, Strathclyde, 1736; Robert E. Lee, Confederate commander, Stratford, Virginia, 1807; Edgar Allan Poe, Boston, Massachusetts, 1809; Paul Cézanne, Aix-en-Provence, 1839. William Congreve died in London, 1729.

The markets
 London: The FT Index closed up 14.1 at 831.2.

The Times Information Service
 A number of items normally included in *The Times Information Service* are missing from today's columns. This is due to a dispute involving clerical members of the Sogat & Co. union. We apologise for the omissions.

The papers

President Reagan's call, in election year, for an improved dialogue between the United States and the Soviet Union has given "an enormous boost" to the West German delegation to the conference on disarmament at Stockholm, the *Neue Ruhr-Zeitung* said yesterday.

The paper said that, in December, the United States did not even want to mention the possibility of East-West cooperation in the community issues at the end of that month's Nato meeting. President Reagan's speech has been greeted by West German delegates at Stockholm as "almost European" in its tone, the paper reported.

"Everybody who cares about the welfare of four young people will be disturbed by the remarks about cannibalism made by top star Paul McCartney," claims the *Daily Star*, which notes that the ex-beatle has been fined four times in the past for possessing marijuana, the latest time along with his wife Linda in Barbados a few days ago.

"About all this Paul is unrepentant. Instead he declares not ought to be 'decriminalised' because 'it is a lot less harmful than whisky or cocaine, and they are perfectly legal.' The paper observes 'What's more, he makes no secret of his fondness for smoking it or that he intends to go on smoking it. At 41, he really ought to know better.'"

The paper says that to compare marijuana with alcohol and nicotine is to "miss the point entirely." It admits, though, that both "already do enormous damage to our health, on a scale that can be measured in millions of pounds and thousands of deaths and disabilities."

The *Daily Mirror* comments on the verdict by a number of Conservative MPs against the Government's late-cannibalising proposals that Mrs Thatcher has been bound to get banana skins, the paper says.

The paper also quotes from Mr Heath's recent critique of government economic policy, and concludes: Mrs Thatcher can answer him by saying the voters are still with her. And at this stage she may be right. But for how long, if she is losing her strength in the Tory Party?

"Tory loyalists say that Mr Heath is sour. Perhaps he is. Perhaps Mr Pym is. And Sir Ian Gilmour and the rest. Though that would be a lot of sourness."

"But what does that matter - when they are also right?"

Weather forecast

As anticyclone will move across the British Isles as a depression over N France moves away E.

6 am to midnight

London, Midlands, NW, central E England: dry, sunny periods; wind variable SW, max temp 5C (41F), frost early and late.
 SE, SW, central E England: cloudy, isolated showers; wind S, max temp 10C (50F), frost early and late.
 SE, SW, central E England: cloudy, isolated showers; wind S, max temp 10C (50F), frost early and late.
 SE, SW, central E England: cloudy, isolated showers; wind S, max temp 10C (50F), frost early and late.

Channel Islands: cloudy, rain or sleet at first, sunny periods developing later; wind SE, max temp 10C (50F), frost early and late.
 SE, SW, central E England: cloudy, isolated showers; wind S, max temp 10C (50F), frost early and late.
 SE, SW, central E England: cloudy, isolated showers; wind S, max temp 10C (50F), frost early and late.

Edinburgh and Dundee, Glasgow, central Highlands: freezing fog patches slowly developing, sunny intervals, isolated snow showers; wind N, max temp 5C (41F), frost early and late.

Outlook for tomorrow and Saturday: Mostly dry, sunny periods, mainly frosty; frost clearing overnight, rain or sleet developing later; wind SE, max temp 10C (50F), frost early and late.

SEA PASSAGES: N, North Sea: Wind N, fresh to strong; sea moderate to rough. Strait of Dover, English Channel: Wind N, strong or gale force; sea rough. St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind N, moderate or fresh; sea slight or moderate.

Sun rises: 7.57 am Sun sets: 4.26 pm
 Moon rises: Moon sets: 3.02 am
 Last Quarter: January 25.

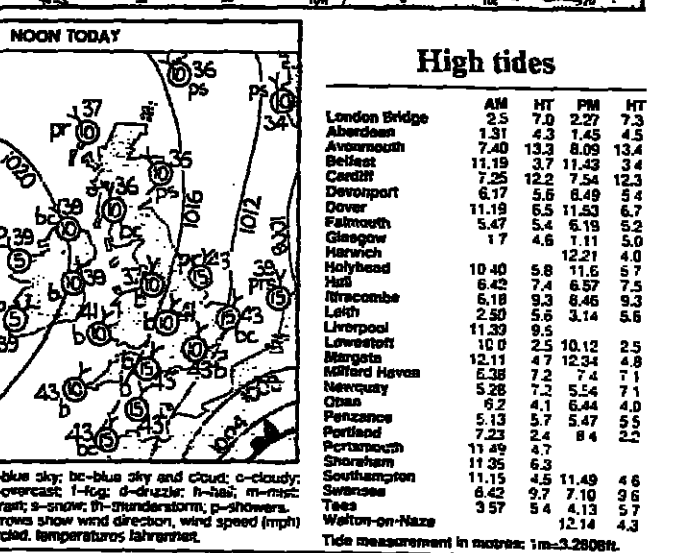
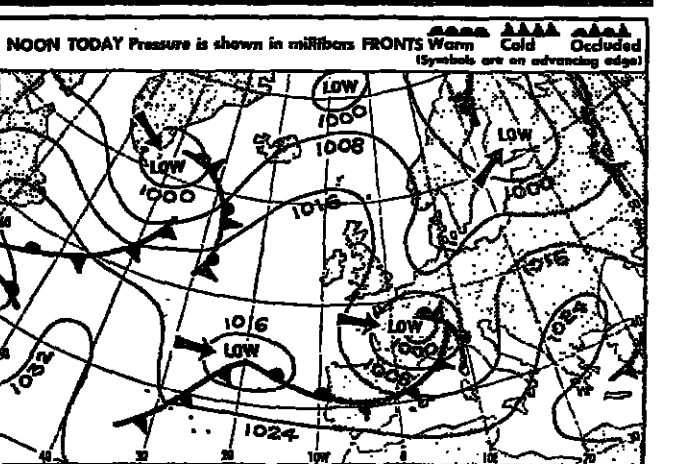
Lighting-up time
 London 4.58 pm to 7.28 am
 Bristol 4.58 pm to 7.28 am
 Manchester 4.58 pm to 7.43 am
 Newcastle 4.58 pm to 7.42 am

Yesterday
 Temperatures at midday yesterday: C, F, C, F
 Belfast 1.3/34 Glasgow 1.3/34
 Birmingham 1.3/34 London 1.3/34
 Manchester 1.3/34 Newcastle 1.3/34
 Nottingham 1.3/34 Oxford 1.3/34
 Plymouth 1.3/34 Reading 1.3/34
 Southampton 1.3/34 Swansea 1.3/34
 Cardiff 1.3/34 Exeter 1.3/34
 Gloucester 1.3/34 Hereford 1.3/34
 Ipswich 1.3/34 Leicester 1.3/34
 Lincoln 1.3/34 Liverpool 1.3/34
 Luton 1.3/34 Norwich 1.3/34
 Peterborough 1.3/34 Preston 1.3/34
 Sheffield 1.3/34 Stirling 1.3/34
 Telford 1.3/34 Torquay 1.3/34
 Wakefield 1.3/34 Walsley 1.3/34
 Wolverhampton 1.3/34 York 1.3/34

Highest and lowest
 Yesterday: Highest air temp: Glasgow 13C (55F); lowest air temp: London 1C (34F); highest rainfall: Exeter 0.29 in; highest sunshine: Folkestone 7.0 h.

London
 Yesterday: Temp: max 5 to 6 to 8 pm, 3C (37F); min 6 to 8 pm, 7C (45F); humidity: 80%; sun: 57 per cent; rain: 24 to 6 pm, 0.0 in; sun: 50 to 8 pm, 0.0 in; sun: 50 to 8 pm, 0.0 in.

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| Around Britain | | | |
|----------------|-----------|----------|-------|
| Location | High Tide | Low Tide | Time |
| London Bridge | 12.11 | 6.11 | 12.11 |
| Abbeystead | 12.11 | 6.11 | 12.11 |
| Abbeystead | 12.11 | 6.11 | 12.11 |
| Abbeystead | 12.11 | 6.11 | 12.11 |
| Abbeystead | 12.11 | 6.11 | 12.11 |
| Abbeystead | 12.11 | 6.11 | 12.11 |
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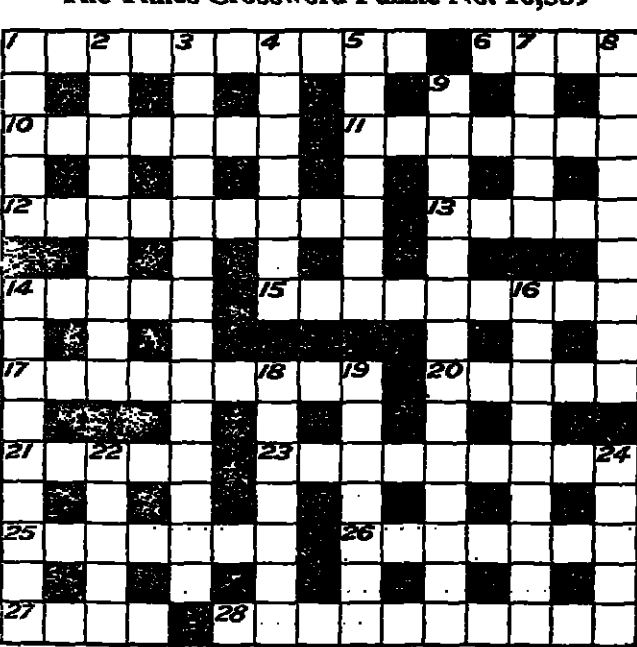
| Abroad | | | |
|----------|-----------|----------|-------|
| Location | High Tide | Low Tide | Time |
| Algeria | 12.11 | 6.11 | 12.11 |
| Algeria | 12.11 | 6.11 | 12.11 |
| Algeria | 12.11 | 6.11 | 12.11 |
| Algeria | 12.11 | 6.11 | 12.11 |
| Algeria | 12.11 | 6.11 | 12.11 |
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| Algeria | 12.11 | 6.11 | 12.11 |
| Algeria | 12.11 | 6.11 | 12.11 |
| Algeria | 12.11 | 6.11 | 12.11 |
| Algeria | 12.11 | 6.11 | 12.11 |

Today's events

New provincial exhibitions
 Prints and photographs by Ian Sanderson, Tunbridge Wells Art Gallery, Civic Centre, Mount Pleasant, Tunbridge Wells, Mon to Fri 10 to 5.30, Sat 9.30 to 5 (until Feb 1).
 Open exhibition by Cornish artists: Falmouth Art Gallery, The Moor, Falmouth, Mon to Fri 10 to 1.2 to 4.30 (until Feb 3).
 New London exhibitions
 Greek and Roman sculpture: A new permanent exhibition of 1,000

exhibits including many from the Townley collection; Wolfson Galleries, British Museum, Great Russell Street, WC1, Mon to Sat 10 to 5 Sun 2.30 to 6.
 The Anglo Saxons in France 1916-1918: engravings and woodcuts by Jean-Emile Labouret; Imperial War Museum, Lambeth Road, SE1, Mon to Sat 10 to 5.50, Sun 2 to 5.50 (until April 8).
 Work by Margaret Walker and Leigh Crampin; Art Gallery, 6 to 8 Rosebery Avenue, EC1, Mon to Fri 11 to 6, Sat 11 to 2 (until Feb 4).
 Omega workshops: alliance and enmity in English art, 1911-1920;

The Times Crossword Puzzle No. 16,339



- ACROSS
- Mad Hatter retains majesty as heat controller (10).
 - Carmen would hope to avoid this second child? (4).
 - Bridge support last month suffering set-back, being holed. (7).
 - Artist guide for Tobias? (7).
 - Company in which soldier returned to a stream for a little smoke (9).
 - Regretting downfall before midnight (5).
 - Clergyman is round we hear (5).
 - Enter into new sort of holding (9).
 - Cheap seating for baseball fans or textile workers? (9).
 - She shows by anger one loses love (5).
 - Topping one-way ticket to a warm spot (5).
 - Hit the wrong nail (not on the head) causing extreme deformity (6-3).
 - This officer a man of affairs? (7).
 - Conveyance for high explosive Olive organized? (7).
 - What we are descended from, regardless of Darwin? (4).
 - The tube of French polish is not quite finished - capital! (10).
- DOWN
- Subject to endless choice (5).
 - Coming out from Greece men appear in difficulties (9).
 - Old-time dandy a big VIP of course (8,6).
 - His job backing horses? (7).
 - Parade left here for foreign parts (7).
 - What suited Tommy a sine qua non for the motorist, might one say? (5).
 - Old French transport industry (9).
 - During which Frederic was bound to be a pirate (14).
 - Message sent out of Brazilian port on top of this 26 (9).
 - It turns up in Iceland anyhow, just the same (9).
 - Intensely with mixture of beans and candle-ends? (7).
 - Ura went about five - Pacific Islands? Right? (7).
 - Saving one? Darling! (5).
 - Levels one against one (5).

Solution of Puzzle No. 16,338
 ACROSS
 1. MAD HATTER
 2. CARMEN
 3. BRIDGE
 4. TUBES
 5. SINE
 6. TOMMY
 7. FREDERIC
 8. DANDY
 9. MESSAGE
 10. CANDLE
 11. URA
 12. SAVING
 13. LEVELS
 DOWN
 1. SUBJECT
 2. COMING
 3. OLD
 4. HIS
 5. PARADE
 6. WHAT
 7. TOMMY
 8. DURING
 9. MESSAGE
 10. IT
 11. URA
 12. SAVING
 13. LEVELS